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Kuwait launches diplomatic offensive against Iraqi complaint

Council rejects Baghdad claim on oil, renounces policy of threats, extortion

US firm in support of Gulf 'friends'; Jordan to intercede

KUWAIT, July 18, (Kuna): Kuwait's National Council today rejected Iraq's memorandum to the Arab League's secretary-general over the country's oil production policies, describing it as inconsistent with the spirit of Arab fraternity and the Islamic religion.

A council statement issued here today after a special in-camera session called for by the government affirmed that "Kuwait which abides by the principles of world justice and peace, renounces the policy of violence, threats and extortion and reiterates its firm

adherence to international conventions and those of the Arab League and other regional and international organisations."

The statement stressed that Kuwait has been generously assisting its sisterly Arab countries in all circumstances and hard times, citing Kuwait's national stand toward the Iraq-Iran war which exposed the country to acts of subversion and blackmailing.

It underlined that, nevertheless, Kuwait did not succumb and did not retreat from supporting the Arab stand materially and morally at all Arab, Islamic and international levels.

The statement strictly affirmed that Kuwait would remain faithful to all its national commitments.

"The council, which denounces what was contained in the memorandum of the Iraqi government for its violation of neighbourliness rights, overlooking the duties of Arab and Islamic fraternity and its words and expressions which contradict the international values and norms, hereby stresses the need to adhere to the principles of consultation and understanding and steering of dialogue in contemplation before circulating accusations against Kuwait or attempting to cast doubt on its national and humanitarian stands," read the statement.

The council expressed confidence in the country's wise political leadership, saying it is capable of adopting necessary measures necessitated by the circumstances.

■ **US Department spokesman**

Richard Boucher told reporters after the Iraqi outburst: "We ... remain strongly committed to supporting the individual and collective self-defense of our friends in the Gulf with whom we have deep and longstanding ties."

Asked if the United States would provide military help against an Iraqi attack, Boucher said: "Clearly, we're strongly committed to supporting the individual and collective self-defense of our friends in the Gulf."

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PLO ultimatum to Hezbollah

64 killed, 218 wounded in inter-Shiite bloodbath

SARBA, Lebanon, July 18, (Agencies): Fierce battles raged today in south Lebanon between Shiite Muslim factions, and the PLO warned that it will evict the PLO-Iranian Hezbollah from a strategic hilltop village if it does not withdraw in 24 hours.

Police said at least 64 Shiites have been killed and 218 wounded in the fighting between the fundamentalist Hezbollah, and the more secular Amal which broke out Monday.

Six PLO fighters were wounded by Hezbollah fire on a Palestinian force that

intervened to halt the inter-Shiite bloodbath, a police spokesman said.

The PLO deployment in the disputed region placed Yasser Arafat's fighters close to Israeli reprisals.

The Shiite factions ignored an appeal by the International Committee of the Red Cross for a "humanitarian ceasefire" and evacuate bodies littering the battle ground in Iqlim Al Tuffah, or Apple province.



Combined US Airforce servicemen and Philippine Army remove a school girl from the debris of Christian College. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fire raises toll to 600

BAGUIO, Philippines, July 18, (Reuters): Up to 150 factory workers, burned when a powerful earthquake hit the northern Philippines, burned to death as fire swept through the wreckage where they lay trapped, a government spokesman said today.

Smoke still curled over Baguio city as Japanese and extra US rescue teams helped Philippine troops shift through flattened buildings in a bid to free scores of people still trapped under rubble three days after the tragedy which has claimed almost 600 lives.

Rescuers are certain the number of deaths will rise.

Medical workers say no signs of an epidemic have surfaced in the town, some 200 km (120 miles) from Manila, but the danger will increase if bodies are not recovered within 48 hours.

Thousands of people fled this isolated mountain city today as aftershocks slowed the search for survivors.

Damage from Monday's earthquake, the worst to hit the Philippines in 14 years, was much more extensive than first believed in Luzon island, Manila television stations reported.

Almost 300 people died in the northern hill resort of Baguio alone where 28 large buildings including the luxury Hyatt Hotel lie in ruins, government spokesman Tomas Gomez told reporters.

The exact death toll from the fire at the cluster of small multinational-owned factories in the export-processing zone will not be known until it is extinguished.

"Apparently there were also chemicals in that export processing zone and garments which is the reason why it went up in flames," Gomez said.

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"Apparently there were also chemicals

Lebanon

was altered by Hezbollah's deployment in Jarjou," Wehbe told reporters in Sidon, provincial capital of south Lebanon.

Hezbollah had rejected the Palestinian deployment, and threatened to confront. A Hezbollah official warned that the PLO move would lead to "large-scale violence."

Hezbollah and Amal shelled each other over the disengagement force, running a 4-mile-long (6.5 kms) buffer that stretches from Sarha through the village of upper Koutnine to Arab Saleem, just north of Jarjou.

The Shite factions deployed all weapons in their possession, including howitzers, mortars of all calibre, and the multi-barreled rocket launchers that fire 32 rounds a minute.

The clashes centred around a barren hill northeast of Arab Saleem.

Amal was trying to prevent Hezbollah from occupying the high-lands from which it would control a three-mile (5 kms) road to the Nabatiyeh, the main Shite town in south Lebanon.

The fighting is the fiercest in six months between the two factions which have been battling on and off for three years for control of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shites. The Shite make up the country's largest sect.

So far, 1,112 people have been killed and 3,699 wounded in the inconclusive conflict.

Scores of cars packed with children, mattresses and suitcases could be seen speeding out of the region.

Ali Huieej said he was taking his wife and four children to "stay with relatives in Sidon until this is over."

"We don't care who controls what, just let them stop the shelling," Huieej said.

Communist Party leader, George Hawi, warned: "The current developments are expected to invite Israeli intervention at a time when Israel is looking for a pretext to strike at the PLO and re-establish control over south Lebanon."

"We call on the warring factions to stop fighting in light of the prevailing serious situation and we plead with our brothers in the PLO not to get involved further and real-



Funeral

Shiite Muslim women wail yesterday at the funeral of pro-Iranian Hezbollah militants killed in fighting in Lebanon. (Reuter wirephoto)

use that their deployment could lead to Israeli repercussions."

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to crush the PLO. Arafat's fighters were forced to evacuate the south and Beirut.

At least 5,000 hardcore fighters have infiltrated back into the refugee camps around Sidon, 25 miles (40 kms) south of Beirut.

Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance missions over the embattled region yesterday, after the PLO deployed.

Agriculture Minister Mohsen Dalloul, a Shiite, said in a statement broadcast by the Voice of the Nation that that "is just the begin-

ning."

The warnings came two days after Israel's Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. Avihu Bin-Nun said he may launch a pre-emptive strike to eliminate reported Palestinian preparations for air attacks on the Jewish state.

Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss met today with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmood Al Zu'bi.

Talks centred on the latest development in the Lebanese situation and contacts were under way to guarantee establishing the proposed greater Beirut area, as a zone placed under the control of the Lebanese front.

legitimate authority of President Elias Hirwani's government.

Talks also touched on efforts, exerted by Arab League tripartite committee envoy Lakhdar Al Ibrahimi to implement the Taif accord, and the Lebanese factions' stance on the Lebanese government's recent national unity call.

The Lebanese premier also called on Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Vice-President Abd al-Halim Khaddam later.

Hoss arrived in Damascus earlier today to brief Syrian officials on the latest developments on the Lebanese front.

Belgium proposes swap of hostages and Arab prisoner

BRUSSELS, July 18. (AP): A Palestinian fighter, serving a life sentence for killing a Jewish teenager in a 1980 bomb attack, will only be freed if four Belgian hostages in the Middle East are released, officials said today. Under Belgian law, Saeed Nasser becomes eligible for parole on July 27 after serving 10 years for bomb attack in Antwerp.

Given that the hostage takers demand the freedom of Nasser, we say he will be freed if the hostages are set free and if justice officials agree to parole Nasser, said foreign affairs

spokesman Johan Swinnen.

The four Belgians are held by the Fatah Revolutionary Council, the Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal. It said it took nine hostages aboard the yacht Silco, off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip on Nov. 8, 1987. It released five of them to date.

Nasser was sentenced to death for a July 27, 1980, grenade attack on Jewish youths in Antwerp who were waiting for a bus to go to a summer camp in southern Belgium. One teenage boy died and 20 other people were injured.

Under Belgian law, death sentences are automatically commuted to 30 years imprisonment.

Nasser was arrested hours after the grenade attack and may be paroled as early as next week.

The Fatah-Revolutionary Council said earlier this year Nasser's release was a basic demand for the resumption of talks on the release of the four Belgians whom it accused of collaborating with the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

Newswatch

Accused cleared: An appeals court probing Italy's worst post-war terror attack acquitted all 13 defendants yesterday of complicity in a 1980 Bologna railway station bombing that killed 83 people.

The verdict, read to a stunned courtroom, took the investigation of one of Italy's most mysterious crimes back to square one.

After a 10-month hearing, the court acquitted four neo-Fascists sentenced to life in jail for the attack and nine other people convicted of lesser offences linked to the bombing.

The bomb devastated the station's waiting room on August 2, 1980, killing 85 people and injuring some 200.

The four neo-Fascists acquitted on charges of having carried out the attack were Massimiliano Fochini, Sergio Picciolucci, Valerio Fioravanti and his wife Francesca Mamro.

The former head of the powerful P-2 illegal Masonic lodge, Licio Gelli, and former secret service agent Francesco Pazzuca were acquitted on charges of calumny and laying a trail of false evidence to confuse investigators.

E. Germany sheltered terrorists: East Germany's communist leadership sheltered Palestinian terrorists, including the man believed responsible for the killing of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games, the Interior Ministry confirmed Monday.

During the late 1970s, sections of the Palestine Liberation Organisation teamed up with other terrorist groups and sought to set up a logistical base in East Germany, said Wolfgang Elstner, the ministry's director of police.

Records of the Stasi, the former secret police force, showed Abn Daoud had gained entry to East Germany in 1978 and had travelled to the country several times since then, Elstner said.

Abn Daoud is believed to have planned the attack on the Olympic village in Munich, West Germany, which led to the deaths of 11 Israeli athletes during a shootout with police at Munich airport.

Lawyer confident of award: A maritime lawyer said on Tuesday he was confident that a Tacoma federal judge would order a Japanese steamship company to pay 21 Filipino seamen at least \$40 million in a wage dispute case.

Richard Dodson, a Louisiana attorney representing the seamen, said US District Judge Jack Tanner indicated in a court hearing last Friday that he intended to order the payment by the Innn Steamer Co., which is 25 per cent owned by Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd.

Reuters incorrectly reported on July 13 that the judge had already signed an order for the award. A final judgement is not expected before next month.

If it is approved, lawyers said the judgement will be the largest maritime wage award in US history.

Executed for murder: A male prostitute convicted of killing a would-be boxer partner was executed by lethal injection in a Texas prison early yesterday.

Mikel Derrick, 33, died six minutes after a deadly combination of chemicals was injected into his arm, said Texas Department of Corrections spokesman Charlie Brown.

Death was timed at 11 minutes after midnight (0517 GMT). Derrick was executed for murdering Edward Sonnier, 32, on October 11, 1980, a crime to which he confessed while in prison for robbery.

He said he stabbed Sonnier 15 times after the two went to victim's apartment and smoked marijuana, police said.

Sonnier was making sexual advances when Derrick, who told authorities he was a male prostitute, attacked him, according to the testimony.

Attempt to smuggle cannabis: A Scottish doctor's attempt to smuggle cannabis out of Britain was foiled by customs officers when they discovered a stash of the drug hidden in his sporran, a court heard yesterday.

The sporran, a fur-covered pouch worn by Scottish highlanders in front of their kilts, was worn by 48-year-old Doctor Robert Macaulay who was flying out of Heathrow airport in traditional Scottish dress.

"About seven grammes (0.2 of an ounce) of cannabis was found in his sporran," said Richard Pattison, customs and excise spokesman. The doctor, who said it was for his own use, was fined £125 (\$225) and £25 (\$45) costs.

Hashish seized: The Greek Coast Guard has seized two tonnes of hashish submerged in car tire inner tubes off the western port of Preveza, the Merchant Marine Ministry said today.

The drug is worth well over \$1 million. It was packed in 49 inner tubes submerged at a depth of 10 metres (33 feet). They were dropped by an unknown ship which we have yet to locate, a ministry spokesman told Reuters.

The conservative government which won elections last April had said the curbing of drug trafficking was a priority. Greece is a centre for the transit of drugs to Western Europe from the Middle East and Turkey.

New constitution: A new constitution being formulated will allow a multi-party system and provide greater press freedom and presidential elections for the first time. But the ruling Baath Party will keep its dominant role in politics.

A copy of the draft 180-article constitution, being debated by the 250-member National Assembly, or Parliament, was obtained by the Associated Press Wednesday. (AP)

Capital punishment: In an effort to combat burgeoning bureaucratic corruption, Iran's parliament on Wednesday voted for a new law calling for the death sentence for the so-called "economic saboteurs."

Tehran Radio said the new legislation will empower courts to order the execution of defendants convicted of "grand" frauds, and for prison terms ranging from five to 20 years in the case of minor offenses. (AP)



Madonna takes a run

Rock star Madonna surrounded by miners takes a run in London's Hyde Park hours after arriving in Britain for a series of concerts. The star was followed by a posse of reporters and photographers and eventually her bodyguards had to jostle the journalists away. (Reuter wirephoto)



A rebel

A Liberian rebel fighter wearing a beret replaces the magazine of his automatic rifle on the battlefield outside Monrovia. He was shot dead by government soldiers later. (Reuter wirephoto)

Story Page 4

Karrubi attacks US Congress message

NICOSIA, July 18. (AP): Iran's radical Parliament speaker today criticized a letter signed by 162 US Congressmen, branding Tehran's hierarchy a "medieval dictatorship" and expressing support for the Iraq-based opposition.

The official media quoted Mahdi Karrubi as telling the Majlis that "it is not known how foolishly members of the US Congress think or bow far they are from realities."

"The threat of the US Congress is not won by even an iota to us and the United States and its Congress cannot do a damn thing," the Islamic News Agency and Tehran Radio quoted him as saying.

The letter was signed by 100 House Democrats and 62 Republicans. It was sent yesterday to Massoud Rajavi, leader of Mujahideen Khalq.

In their letter, the American lawmakers stated that "decisiveness is required to confront Tehran's medieval dictatorship."

They asked Rajavi "to assure your countrymen that we support their peaceful and democratic aims" of replacing the government.

Karrubi referred to the mujahideen as a terrorist group.

The agency and radio, quoted him as stressing that "the fact that the United States is speaking of an organisation which has committed so many crimes gives us a feeling of pride and grandeur."

He said: "Our humiliations and contempt will be the day when the United States and its Congress speak highly of us and say, for instance, human rights are observed in Iran. On that day we must shed tears."

Actress Alison Leggatt, 86, dies

Brilliant portrayals

LONDON, July 18. (AP): Alison Leggatt, an actress of London's Avant-Garde Movement remembered for brilliant portrayals of characters in plays by John Osborne, Harold Pinter and John Arden, has died, her family said today. She was 86.

She died in London on Sunday. No cause of death was stated.

Alison Joy Seetah Leggatt, whose career stretched back to 1924 when she won the gold medal at London's central school of dramatic art, became an actress against her well-to-do parents' wishes.

Her mother refused ever to see her act, considering the stage unsuitable for a well-bred young woman.

Her performance in Miles Malleson's "The Fanatics" in 1927 established her as one of the most promising theatrical newcomers of her generation.

Though never a romantic actress, Leggatt knew how to

wring tears and smiles from the audience. From portraying upper-crust young ladies, she branched into a wide variety of roles.

During the 1930s, she appeared in Noel Coward's "Cavalcade," playing a honesy mooning wife to the Titanic just before the iceberg struck. She also toured in Coward's six one-act plays collectively entitled "Tonight at 7.30," playing six very different young girls and old women, and acted in plays by Clifford Bax and J.B. Priestley.

After World War II, she was Lavinia in T.S. Eliot's "The Cocktail Party" alongside Rex Harrison and Margaret Leighton, and Mrs. Guzzardi in Eliot's "The Confidential Clerk."

Leggatt appeared in Tyrone Guthrie's "Top Of The Ladder," and played the emotionally restrained landlady in John Osborne's and Anthony Creighton's "Epithal" for George Dillon. "Epithal" was a romantic comedy by G. D. H. Dhuillan, a Filipino holding passport No. 493779, left her employer's house while still under his sponsorship. Anyone concealing information on her whereabouts will face legal action. Anyone knowing her whereabouts, should contact the nearest police station.

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WARNING

G. Dulman, Filipina, holding passport No. 493779, left her employer's house while still under his sponsorship. Anyone concealing information on her whereabouts will face legal action. Anyone knowing her whereabouts, should contact the nearest police station.

Hubble wobble can be repaired

WASHINGTON, July 18. (UPI): NASA engineers expect to eliminate at least 95 per cent of the Hubble space telescope's blurry vision by replacing nickel-sized mirrors in a new camera to be installed in about three years, officials said yesterday.

Any remaining near-sightedness should be reduced to a "negligible" level by using motorized "actuators" to push or pull on Hubble's apparently flawed 94.5 inch (240 cm) primary mirror to make subtle changes in the mirror's shape.

"We feel.... that we can get the error down to about 5 per cent of the existing error," said deputy project manager Jean Olivier. "If we can wind up with a residual uncertainty of 5 per cent, we think that's doable on orbit. That leaves us with a sufficient margin. We can take out twice that much with the actuators on the primary."

Hubble's primary mirror is mounted on 24 such actuators that can be commanded to push or pull as warranted to make changes in the shape of the mirror, which affects the focus of the optical system.

But project scientist Edward Weiler said the reduced light levels would offset the value of improving the telescope's focus.

"It's somewhat attractive but in general, the scientists will not want to risk going up and doing that," he said.

Hubble is equipped with five primary instruments, including two visible-light cameras that require a good focus to work properly.

Even before the telescope's launch, NASA was developing a more advanced "wide-field planetary camera" to replace the one currently on board.

By modifying mirrors the size of a nickel in the replacement camera, Olivier said, at least 95 per cent of the primary mirror's spherical aberration can be counteracted.

The new camera is scheduled for installation during a space shuttle mission in 1993.

Hubble's primary optical system was never tested as a complete unit, which critics say, would have revealed the problem well before launch.

Weiler said yesterday such a "full system end-to-end test" will be conducted on the replacement camera to make sure the corrective mirrors will work properly.

The electronic brain of NASA's Galileo space probe fired small rockets to fine-tune the craft's trajectory for a December flyby of Earth, the second leg of a three-bank celestial billiard shot to sling the probe toward Jupiter.

Aids prostitute won't be charged for selling sex

OAKLAND, California, July 18. (AP): A prostitute who allegedly told a news magazine that she continued to sell sex despite being infected with AIDS won't be charged with attempted murder, authorities said yesterday.

"We never really wanted the attempted murder, but it kind of got laid at our doorsteps," said Alameda County deputy district attorney James Casey. "For one thing, it's always nice to have a victim. And we just didn't."

Linda Kean, 36, a prostitute and self-confessed heroin addict, was scheduled to be released after admitting to a probation violation. She was sentenced to 23 days in jail, with credit for time already served.

Kean was arrested June 25 after being featured in June 25 Newsweek article about AIDS. A caption with a picture of Kean posed provocatively against a lampost quoted her as saying she contracted the deadly virus from contaminated needles, but continued to sell sex.

She denied the comments, but Newsweek stood by the story.

Kean, who has five previous prostitution convictions, had been jailed since her arrest on a March 1989 probation violation charge. Bail was \$1,500.

Bush hopes for more global co-operation in space

WASHINGTON, July 18. (Reuters): President George Bush said yesterday he expects an outside review he has ordered to look at the broad challenges facing the troubled US space programme, including the possibility of more US-Soviet co-operation in space.

Earlier, NASA administrator Richard Truly said space shuttle flights would probably resume by Sept 1. The shuttles Atlantis, Columbia and Discovery

were grounded on May 29 because of concern over fuel leaks.

NASA has pinpointed the sources of unrelated hydrogen leaks on Columbia and Atlantis and is now studying possible new flight schedules, Truly said.

Bush told magazine publishers at the White House, "As the whole world is changing — and it has dramatically changed — there may be some real opportunities to do more with the

Soviet Union, for example, or with other countries."

The outside review of the space programme's long-term future was announced on Monday by Vice-President Dan Quayle, who heads the administration's space council.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has suffered a string of embarrassing setbacks, including the discovery of a flawed mirror in the

orbiting \$2.1 billion Hubble Space Telescope and the grounding of the shuttle fleet.

Quayle's office said the review was not an investigation of NASA. "It's not a shake-up. It's a forward-looking rather than backward-looking study of how to carry out the president's goals in space and keep the United States first in space," a White House official said.

Bush, reaffirming his confidence in

Truly, said the outside review had nothing to do with a possible restructuring of the space agency, as has been reported.

Bush said he wanted Truly to call on the best minds he can find to see how we're going to meet these next goals and meet them hopefully within budget."

He referred specifically to the space programme to advance knowledge of the Earth.

Truly said he expected flights to resume between the middle of next month and September 1, but gave no details.

"As it turned out, it was just a terrible coincidence of two separate specific leaks — we have them both," he said in an interview on NBC television.

NASA's troubles have fuelled congressional criticism of the space programme.

PEOPLE AND POLITICS



Fashion show

A model wears a French ruban bodice and emira waist line dress in precious embossed jacquard of peach and gold tones patented by Andra Laug at the Autumn-Winter 1990-91 fashion show on Tuesday (Reuters wirephoto)

World War II artillery

Shell explodes, kills 5

PARIS, July 18. (AP): One of more than 2,600 World War II shells found in a small town this month exploded today, killing five people involved in trying to remove the shells, police said.

The shells were buried along a public road outside Epernay, south of Dijon in east-central France.

A 20-year-old man from the town was killed by a shell on May 21, and authorities began to investigate whether more shells might remain buried in the area.

On July 9, a major clearance operation was launched. Since then, according to town officials, 2,664 have been dug up and destroyed.

Few details were immediately available about today's explosion. Police said the victims included explosives experts working to clear away the shells, but no names were released pending notification of relatives.

One person reportedly was injured.

Most of the shells were in a concentrated area, and a security fence had been erected to keep the public away.

Young finishes 2nd in primary

Democratic nomination

ATLANTA, July 18. (AP): Andrew Young, seeking to become Georgia's first black governor, finished second in a five-way primary for the Democratic nomination, landing him in a runoff with Lt Gov. Zell Miller next month.

Miller, lieutenant governor for 16 years, rode an issue growing in popularity — legalisation of a state lottery — to first place in yesterday's primary.

"Tonight I believe I can hear Georgia singing," Miller told supporters. "I bear Georgia singing a new song full of hope and harmony... a new song full of dreams and the determination to make them come true."

State Rep. Johnny Isakson, 43, a real estate executive, won nearly three-quarters of the vote against three challengers in the Republican primary.

With 89 per cent of 2,446 precincts reporting early Wednesday, Miller

had 380,925 votes or 41 per cent; Young had 275,457 votes or 30 per cent; and state Sen. Roy Barnes had 187,498 votes or 20 per cent. State Rep. Lauren "Bubba" McDonald had 58,974 votes, or 6 per cent, and former Gov. Lester Maddox, a one-time segregationist, had 27,962 votes, or 3 per cent.

Georgia law provides for a Aug 7 runoff between the top two candidates, unless one wins a majority in the primary.

Even before the last votes were counted last night, Miller warned Young to expect questions about his record as Atlanta's mayor. Miller had criticised Young for Atlanta's record as big-city crime capital of the nation during his last two years as mayor.

"I don't think it's in any way ungentlemanly for him to challenge my record," said Young.

Young, 46, 465 guitarists showed up at the Peach Festival and played "Lique, Louie" together for 30 minutes. (AP)

Summons filed in Empire State fire

NEW YORK, July 18. (AP): The Fire Department has filed two code-violation summonses against the management of the Empire State building, claiming that defects in the alarm system slowed fire-fighters' response to a smoky fire that injured 38 people.

The exact amount of time that fire-fighters lost in getting to Monday's fire at the 102-story, 59-year-old Landmark Tower was not clear, according to John Mulligan, a spokesman for the Fire Department.

One summons, filed yesterday, charged that the build-

ing's alarm system failed to flash word of the fire to a central alarm station, which then would have notified the Fire Department, he said.

The department was notified of the blaze by telephone. It was not clear who made the call, Mulligan said.

The second summons, Mulligan said, charged that the building's fire safety director, who was supposed to brief arriving fire-fighters, was nowhere to be found when the first companies arrived in the lobby of the building.

Pre-menstrual drug found ineffective

Reduction causes infant deaths

Melatonin, SIDS linked

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, July 18. (Reuters): Reduced levels of a chemical that controls the body's sleep cycle may be linked to Infant Death Syndrome, according to a new research.

Tests on 32 infants who died from SIDS — a disease researchers have tried to blame on infection, smothering, exposure, lung immaturity or a poorly-developed nervous system — show their spinal fluid contained on average about half the melatonin found in 36 babies who died from other causes.

Melatonin is a brain hormone that regulates the sleep-wake cycle and other body functions.

The positive link is "different from things that have been looked at previously," said Dr William Sturmer, Rhode Island's chief medical examiner and main author of the study, published in *Forensic Science International*.

But the results do not mean there will be a test for

study added.

In the study 168 women who had suffered from pre-menstrual syndrome for about eight years were given progesterone suppositories and placeboes alternatively over a four-month period.

There was no significant improvement in irritability, emotional and physical distress between the times the drug was used and when the placebo was

administered, the researchers said.

Ellen Freeman, who led the research team, told Reuters that vaginal suppositories have been the most common method of progesterone treatment for pre-menstrual syndrome, although in recent years oral preparations have also come into use.

"The positive message we hope to send is the importance of

testing other medications," she said.

An estimated 7 million American women experience pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS) to a degree that upsets their daily lives. Symptoms, which usually are most severe just prior to the onset of menstruation, can include irritability, nervous tension, headaches, mood swings, fatigue, breast tenderness and abdominal cramps.

He said he has begun contacting aging millionaires' hopes of finding others in the same boat. Although some have expressed interest, so far none have contributed to the "Quarles Prize."

"I have a happy life. I don't want to die and yet, according to life expectancy tables, my time is up," he said.

"I believe in this so much I put my money where my mouth is. But \$100,000 is all I could afford," Quarles said.

The Society for Curing the Old Age Disease, whose members now number 30, will monitor the prize money — placed in a savings account called

the "Longevity Fund" — and keep tabs on scientific progress, Quarles said.

There is a catch, however. The cure for old age must be approved by a panel of experts by January 1, 2000. If no one wins, the money returns to the investors, Quarles said.

"Old age is really a terrible death. If we can find a way to cure it, it will be one of the great discoveries of the century."

The only problem, he said, is what to do with all the world's people if they live longer. The answer, he believes, lies in a birth control vaccine now being developed by a local company.

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THERE'S MORE TO LIFE WITH
RENAULT

Refugees at embassies will stay there forever: Cuba

HAVANA, July 18, (Reuters): Cuba declared today that asylum-seekers sheltering at European embassies in Havana would have to stay there forever.

The Communist-ruled Caribbean island state has refused to negotiate the departure of groups of embassy refugees, touching off a diplomatic row with Spain and former ally Czechoslovakia.

Cuban President Fidel Castro had offered publicly to send "anti-social elements" to any

European country who wanted them, an official statement said.

But this would have to be done through normal emigration procedures — not through asylum at foreign embassies where refugees would have to remain as "permanent guests."

Cuba says the asylum-seekers are adventurers, common criminals and vagrants, and calls the embassy influx a planned provocation aimed at creating a false image of

insecurity in Cuba.

Spain, whose embassy has three refugees, has attacked the Cuban government's refusal to let them leave the country.

A fresh group of Cubans sought political asylum at foreign embassies in Havana on Tuesday, hours after a week-long standoff at the Czechoslovak embassy ended with the surrender of 12 other refugees.

The 12 gave up unconditionally and left the embassy after fighting among themselves and

holding five Czechoslovak diplomats hostage for more than five hours.

Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Vojtech Wagner arrived in Havana on Tuesday in a bid to defuse tension between the two countries over the episode.

Four more young Cubans sought political asylum on Tuesday at the Italian ambassador's residence in Havana while five others occupied the house of a Czechoslovak diplomat but had been refused diplomatic

protection.

The Foreign Ministry, rejecting criticism by Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, accused him of acting like a "pained colonial administrator" and said he was suffering from "historical amnesia."

"To his manifest ignorance of the situation in Cuba, Mr Ordonez adds a scandalous lack of knowledge of international law," the ministry said in a statement released early today.

The statement signalled a growing rift with

Spain over what it called an "illegal and unjustified" presence at the embassy of three Cuban refugees.

Underlining Cuba's refusal to negotiate their departure, the ministry statement said:

"All those who enter or are received at European embassies and who try to use diplomatic immunity to transform themselves from delinquents into political refugees will become permanent guests in Havana of the governments in question."



Almost a charade

The father of a victim of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am passenger jet over Scotland said yesterday that security was "almost a charade" at some airports.

Jim Swire, (shown above), whose 20-year-old daughter Flora was one of 270 people killed when Pan Am Flight 103 was blown up over the

town of Lockerbie, smuggled a fake bomb onto a British Airways aircraft to the United States two weeks ago.

He appealed at a London news conference yesterday for more money to be spent on scanning machinery that can spot the plastic explosive Semtex. (Reuters wirephoto)

DEA official reports

Cocaine in short supply

WASHINGTON, July 18, (AP): Drug traffickers are finding cocaine in short supply nearly everywhere in the United States, a top US drug official said yesterday.

Ronald Caffrey told the Senate Judiciary Committee that the shortage was the "first positive development in domestic wholesale cocaine availability and prices since the onset of the cocaine epidemic."

Caffrey, the Drug Enforcement Administration's deputy assistant administrator for operations, said cocaine prices had reached their highest level since mid-1985 and that purity levels had dropped.

The combination of high prices and low purity generally indicates a shortage to the drug, he said.

Some of the shortages, Caffrey said, may be due to stockpiling by cocaine traffickers and price gouging by those playing off fears of a shortage.

He said law enforcement efforts in the United States and Latin America have had a major impact on the drug's availability but acknowledged that it could be temporary.

One way the DEA knew shortages existed was because of its undercover agents' dealings with the drug traffickers.

Ruled natural death: Twenty-three endangered Gray whales that washed up on the Triana Islands probably died of natural causes and no tissue samples will be taken, federal officials say.

Environmentalists wanted the carcasses tested to determine whether they ingested oil from the Exxon Valdez oil spill in nearby Prince William Sound.

"We have no reason to think at this point that it's anything other than natural mortality," Steve Zimmerman of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Juneau said Tuesday.

Zimmerman said the number of carcasses found on the islands in the gulf of Alaska was high but the whales could have died of old age, parasitic genetic defects, marginal feeding and exhaustion, among other possibilities. (AP)

Fleeing dentist gets jail: A dentist found guilty of illegally prescribing drugs was sentenced Monday to 15 to 30 years in prison even though she fled two weeks ago to her native Poland.

Authorities said it was undecided whether they would seek the return of Dr Janina Torka Kierski, 67, from Poland. Her attorney notified the district attorney's office July 9 that the dentist informed her family she arrived in Warsaw.

Dr Kierski, who was freed on \$25,000 bond pending sentencing, evaded police July 3 at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport after authorities received a tip she had fled.

The dentist was convicted May 4 on various charges, including conspiracy to acquire by misrepresentation for writing nearly 130 prescriptions for Percocet to a student nurse and another woman. (UPI)

Mega Borg sold: A Norwegian tanker that exploded and burned in the Gulf of Mexico last month has been sold for scrap to a German steel mill, a Houston attorney said.

The 886-foot (266-metre) Mega Borg, which threatened to break up and spew 38 million gallons (15 million litres) of crude into the gulf, was sold for about \$2.3 million, attorney Robert Klawetter said Monday. He said the buyers' identities have not been disclosed and that the sale was arranged through a ship broker in Gibraltar.

Klawetter said a contract was signed on July 13, and the new owners are to take possession of the vessel by Friday.

"The ship is going to be towed to Karachi, Pakistan, where it will be broken up for scrap," he said. "They anticipate it will take about two months to tow it to Karachi." (AP)

Chinese illegals held in Texas: US immigration officials confirmed Tuesday that 63 Chinese refugees smuggled into the United States via Panama are being held in detention and seeking political asylum.

The refugees were arrested in a sting operation in Fairhope, Alabama, on June 9 and 11. Many of the refugees claim persecution because they supported the democracy movement in China that was crushed June 4, 1989.

The ringleader of the smuggling ring was identified by the INS as a Panamanian restaurateur of Chinese descent, Alfonso Mock Castillo.

Officials said Mock Castillo contracted to smuggle 35,000 Chinese from Panama. (UPI)

Anti-Castro militant Bosch free after 14 years in US, Venezuelan prisons

MIAMI, July 18, (AP): Orlando Bosch, the convicted anti-Castro terrorist praised by some Cuban exiles as an anti-communist hero, began his first full day of relative freedom today.

Among the strict conditions imposed on Bosch by the Justice Department in exchange for his release from prison to house arrest yesterday was that he keep a visitors' log of everyone who comes into contact with him.

Bosch called the restriction "ridiculous"

and said he would get around the demand by banging a banner on his door, telling callers to go away because "there are no informants living here."

Bosch, 63, has spent the past 14 years in prison in Venezuela and at a federal jail outside Miami.

"In my long history fighting for the freedom of Cuba, the government of the United States has built up a voluminous file against me titled 'terrorist,'" he said at a news conference after his release.

"Nonetheless, the government of the United States has never wanted to go into the depths of that file to understand my persistence, my insistence and even my intransigence are the product of a past, a sinful past, wherein the sovereignty and the freedom of my country were put in the balance and the right to belligerence was sacrificed in order to liberate Cuba from its tyrannous oppressors."

Bosch claimed he had been unfairly imprisoned by the United States, but said

he wasn't bitter.

Bosch's attorney Hank Adorno refused to discuss details of the agreement hammered out with the Justice Department, but took pains to say his client has abandoned his violent opposition to the government of Fidel Castro.

"He has renounced terrorism in any form whatsoever as a means of political action and as a means to free Cuba from communism," Adorno said.

Spain over what it called an "illegal and unjustified" presence at the embassy of three Cuban refugees.

Underlining Cuba's refusal to negotiate their departure, the ministry statement said:

"All those who enter or are received at European embassies and who try to use diplomatic immunity to transform themselves from delinquents into political refugees will become permanent guests in Havana of the governments in question."



Rebels from the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) evacuate one of their men who was wounded during a battle against government soldiers at Sheffelin military camp outside Monrovia on July 14. (Reuters wirephoto)

Liberia peace talks put off

Businessmen preparing to flee Monrovia: Doe isolated

MONROVIA, Liberia, July 18, (AP): A new round of peace talks aimed at ending the civil war was postponed yesterday as Monrovia residents scrambled for the last food during a lull in rebel attack on the capital.

The delay came as delegations representing four of the nations mediating the peace talks in the capital of neighbouring Sierra Leone were unable to get seats on commercial flights into the country. No date for another attempt was set. The rebel delegation also failed to arrive, according to Sierra Leone officials.

The talks, which involve delegations from Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea

and Togo, were suspended last week to permit rebel delegate Thomas Woewiyu to discuss proposals for ending the war with rebel leader Charles Taylor.

Foreign delegations returned to their capitals during the weekend for consultations.

In Monrovia, the few remaining Lebanese and Indian shopkeepers were clearing out their stocks and preparing to flee the city. Several said they would sell everything they had and hoped to be gone by the weekend.

Rebels lack policies

Taylor opposed to socialism

BUCHANAN, Liberia, July 18, (Reuters): "We are fighting for freedom," say the slogans daubed on the requisitioned vehicles of Liberia's rebel army.

But nobody seems to know how the rebels will



Liberia's rebel leader Charles Taylor directs an assault on Sheffelin military barracks on the outskirts of Monrovia from the shade of a mango tree just behind the front line on July 14. Taylor holds an AK-47 assault rifle equipped with a grenade launcher in one hand and a girl fighter stands guard beside him. (Reuters wirephoto)

Noriega co-defendant

Fugitive surrenders

MIAMI, July 18, (UPI): A fugitive indicted with former Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to US authorities in Panama and was flown to Miami to stand trial on cocaine smuggling charges, it was reported today.

Anet Parades turned himself yesterday to drug enforcement administration agents at the US embassy in Panama City, the Miami Herald reported. He was immediately flown to Miami and jailed at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre, the same federal prison where Noriega is held.

Parades, the son of Gen. Ruben Dario Parades, is the seventh defendant to be arrested. A February 1988 indictment charged that Noriega and 15 others, including leaders of Colombia's Medellin drug cartel, conspired to smuggle tonnes of cocaine into the United States between 1981 and 1986.

Parades could face up to 95 years in prison.

The indictment says Parades and his late brother, also named Ruben, smuggled cocaine with the help of Panama pilot Cesar Rodriguez.

govern this West African country once President Samuel Doe has been flushed out of his last stronghold in the capital Monrovia.

The only certainty is that rebel leader Charles Taylor, a US-educated former associate of Doe who received military training in Libya, will become Liberia's new president.

Taylor's advisers say the 42-year-old rebel leader favours free enterprise and is opposed to socialism.

They also say that he has promised the United States, Liberia's main ally and aid donor, that he will hold free elections by the end of this year.

But Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) has not issued a single policy document since it took up arms against Doe's notoriously corrupt government last December.

And Taylor himself has avoided making any firm policy commitments in his remarks to the foreign media.

The NPFL has no political organisation outside its military command structure and Taylor personally takes all major decisions affecting the rebel movement.

He is aided by a small and poorly equipped secretariat, staffed mainly by high school students.

His closest advisers include only a handful of university graduates, most in their 20s with no experience of government.

Some NPFL officials say privately the rebel movement will be unable to form an effective government without wider support from Liberia's veteran administrators and educated elite.

The Front has a list of experienced and qualified personnel who it is trying to spirit out of Monrovia to join the rebel cause, they added.

The expatriate owners of Liberia's iron mines, rubber plantations and logging concessions also worry that Taylor will find it difficult to rule the country once the fighting is over.

"It's like a dog chasing a car. What does he do with it when he catches it?" asked one expatriate manager visiting the rebel headquarters in Buchanan to negotiate a resumption of his firm's activities under a Taylor administration.

At the moment everything is improvised. The NPFL's estimated 15,000 fighters are given a food ration — mainly rice from a hijacked cargo ship — but no pay.

They have already eaten the entire goat population of the rebel-held area and fish from a commandeered trawler remains their only major source of protein.

The rebel fighters dress outlandishly in clothes looted from stores in captured towns and drive in crudely camouflaged taxis and pickup trucks requisitioned from private owners.

Most are villagers with only a few weeks of military training and although the NPFL has a well-defined military command structure, discipline is weak and the rebel commanders often have no more military experience than the men they lead.

Some of the fighters totting AK-47 assault rifles and World War Two vintage Beretta sub-machine guns are children who appear to be no more than 10 or 12 years old.

UK nurse returns home to London

'I had moments of intense despair, gloom,' Parish tells of ordeal

LONDON, July 18. (Reuters): Daphne Parish, the British nurse unexpectedly freed by Iraq after serving four months of a 15-year sentence on spying charges, flew home today and spoke of the intense despair she felt while in prison.

Looking fit and well despite losing 10 pounds (4.5 kg) during her ordeal, Parish was met by her family at Gatwick airport in an emotional reunion after being released following the intervention of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda.

Parish, who left her cell in Baghdad on Monday and flew to Zambia, received her sentence for driving London-based Iranian journalist Farzad Bazoft to an Iraqi military installation last September. Iraq hanged Bazoft for spying in March.

The 53-year-old blond nurse, who was smiling and relaxed, told reporters at Gatwick that her time in solitary confinement had been the worst and she admitted that during her interrogation there were

moments when she thought she might die. 'I had moments of intense despair and gloom. I wrote on the wall things like, "If I should die think only this of me that there is some corner of a foreign field that is forever England,"' said Parish quoting from verses by the World War One poet Rupert Brooke.

'I wrote this with a stone on the wall at one point and then rubbed it off 24 hours later,' she added.

She also made pup of the Baghdad Observer newspaper to produce a pack of cards, a chess set and a game of Scrabble.

'I was in a room all alone with no one who could speak my language and I had nothing to do,' she said. 'Twenty-four hours is a long time in a day with nothing to do. So I invented games.'

In Lusaka yesterday, Parish, who was held for six months in jail in Iraq before her trial, said that neither she nor Bazoft did anything she considered illegal.

Tearfully hugging her daughter, Michelle de Vries, who has tirelessly campaigned for her freedom, she said at Gatwick that it was a tremendous feeling to be free and that she was already beginning to put her ordeal behind her.

But she added the memory of it would never fade completely.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent a personal message of thanks to Kaunda for Parish's release but there was a testy exchange between the two countries after Kaunda blamed Britain for the death of Bazoft.

Parish implied that Britain's approach to the problem had led to Bazoft's death, a charge hotly denied by the British ambassador to Lusaka and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

On Bazoft's execution, Parish said, 'I am very sad, I don't know the full story.' Asked whether the journalist had been her boyfriend, she replied: 'No, he was just a

good friend.'

She and Bazoft were interrogated together on occasions and sometimes managed to talk in private.

Parish refused to be drawn on his final words to her. 'I cannot tell you, it is not very complimentary,' she said. 'I did not know he was going to be executed. I heard from the embassy and I was shocked.'

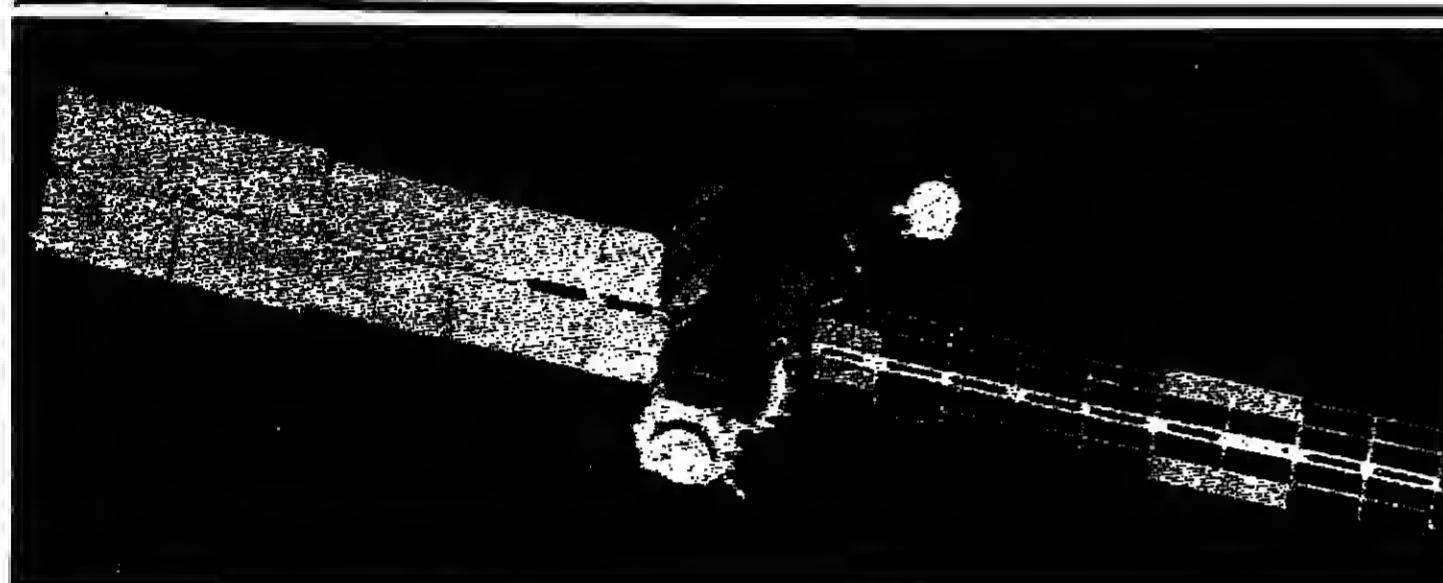
Parish said Bazoft's confession to spying was 'rather surprising.' The Iraqi authorities had told her directly about it and she was told if she wanted to do the same 'it would be proceeded with.'

In the Gatwick welcoming party was Donald Trelford, editor of the Observer newspaper for which Bazoft was working. Trelford said he told Parish how much he regretted that it was because of the Observer she had been jailed.

'The Observer ... feel rather responsible for this. They have no reason to do, but they do,' Parish said.



Daphne Parish, the British nurse released from a 15-year jail term in Iraq seen here on her arrival in Lusaka on Monday. Iraq freed Parish after a personal appeal on humanitarian grounds by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda (Reuters wirephoto)



Hatch malfunction

Two cosmonauts on a spacewalk had to use an emergency hatch to re-enter their space station because they could not seal their normal port hole, Soviet news media reported Wednesday.

The hatch malfunction added a series of problems plaguing the smooth mission of Anatoly Soloviev and Alexander Balandin.

The cosmonauts had left Mir, a Soviet space station that has been orbiting for four years, to fix

thermal insulation around the capsule they must use to return to Earth.

Nearly half the insulation on the Soyuz TM-9 capsule, which is docked to Mir, has peeled off, news reports have said.

After repairing the insulation, the cosmonauts had problems closing the hatch on a module attached to the Mir.

'During their return to the spaceship, the crew

experienced unexpected difficulties,' Moscow radio said. 'The cosmonauts failed to shut the door of the entrance chamber and had to make use of an emergency door to enter the station.'

James Oberg, an American specialist on the Soviet space programme, said that although the cosmonauts managed to climb back into Mir safely, the hatch problem could complicate future space walks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Menninger dies of cancer

'Once America's greatest living psychiatrist'

TOPEKA, Kansas, July 18. (AP): Dr Karl A. Menninger, the world-renowned psychiatrist who helped establish one of the nation's leading institutes, died today of cancer, four days before his 97th birthday.

Menninger died about 8.15 am (1215 GMT) at Stomont-Vail Regional Medical Centre, said hosp-

ital spokeswoman Judy Craig. He was admitted to the hospital June 12 and diagnosed with abdominal cancer.

Menninger was once hailed by the American Psychiatric Association as the nation's "greatest living psychiatrist."

Valentin Pikul dead at 62

MOSCOW, July 18. (AP): Popular historical novelist Valentin Pikul, whose books focused on Russia's sweeping upheavals, has died at the age of 62, the official Tass news agency reported yesterday.

Pikul's novels often delved into topics that were long taboo, such as the downfall of the Russian royalty and the influence of the monk Grigory Rasputin over the family of Czar Nicholas II.

■ Songwriter Mikhail Marusov, author of "Moscow Nights" that became the Soviet capital's theme song, has died, the Tass news agency said yesterday. He was 75.

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Ban urged on foreign political donations

WASHINGTON, July 18. (Reuters): A tinge of xenophobia is appearing in Washington's corridors of power.

Amid concern about foreign influence in domestic affairs, a senator and US agency are taking separate steps which could lead to a ban of political donations from US subsidiaries of foreign corporations.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, the unsuccessful 1988 Democratic vice-presidential candidate, has drawn legislation to improve a flat prohibition "to prevent such insidious foreign involvement in our political process."

Contribution
Similarly, the Federal Election Commission (FEC), which regulates election laws, says it will re-examine its rule that permits contributions by foreign-controlled subsidiaries.

The contribution problem, according to Bentsen, is growing fast as more US companies come under foreign domination.

It is against federal and state laws for foreign nationals to contribute directly to federal, state or local campaigns.

However, corporations, either American or US subsidiaries of foreign companies, can form so-called Political Action Committees (PACs) to funnel donations.

Confident
Bentsen aides are confident the senator's amendment would be adopted to prohibit contributions if firms are controlled at least 50 per cent by foreign interests. Bentsen wants to attach it to Senate legislation to reform campaign financing.

Aside from Bentsen's plan, more muted action against US firms controlled by foreigners is coming from the FEC.

It has opened the way for comments on a proposed ban but the FEC's council is still working on a draft such a ban and the FEC has not formally started its rule-making procedure, a FEC official said.

Controlled

A Congressional Research Service report commissioned by Bentsen said that the practice of donation by US firms controlled by foreigners is growing.

In the 1985-1986 election cycle, 102 foreign-controlled firms donated to federal candidates more than \$2.3 million — or about 4.8 per cent of the \$49.6 million given by all corporation PACs.

Bentsen, who has been seeking a prohibition for years without much success, blames the Federal Election Commission for permitting the present situation he deplodes.

No champagne socialist

Glenda Jackson dismisses charges

LONDON, July 18. (Reuters): 'I've never drunk champagne in my life,' said Oscar-winning actress Glenda Jackson, puffing on a cigarette and nursing a glass of black Guiness beer.

Jackson, running for parliament in the next general election, curtly dismissed charges that she is a "champagne socialist."

She will be fighting to represent the opposition Labour Party and plans to base her campaign for the election, due by mid-1992, on what she regards as the collapse of the state health, education and welfare services under Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

'I know my antecedents. I need no lectures on socialism,' she told Reuters in an interview, displaying the bluntness for which she is well-known.

Jackson, 54, the daughter of a bricklayer from the northwestern industrial town of Birkenhead, said she had been a Labour Party supporter all her life.

She said she was standing for parliament 'because I dislike the attacks which are consistently being made on the health service, the nightmare that is state education at the moment.'

'It seems to me that there is a push on the part of the government to make this country a mini-America, (with) the worst aspects of that society and few, if any, of its virtues.'

Jackson said Britain was being American-



Glenda Jackson

ised in the sense that anything called "public" was bad in the government's eyes, "so public health, public good, public welfare ... is being savaged in the pursuit of self, and I find that appalling."

She expressed scorn for another well-known actor turned politician, former US President Ronald Reagan.

'He's famous. Whether he's an actor or not is debatable. I don't consider him an actor. I'm antipathetic to all his policies,' she said.

Jackson, known for the fierce sincerity she

brings to her roles, is now starring at London's Mermaid Theatre in a widely acclaimed production of "Mother Courage" by the left-wing German playwright Bertolt Brecht.

She said she planned to continue acting full-time until the election campaign started in earnest. 'You can't give up one profession till you're sure of another.'

Jackson said she would be "hugely disappointed" if she failed to win the seat for the Hampstead and Highgate constituency in north London, which is currently held by a Conservative with a small majority.

'It will mean we won't have a Labour government. It will only take a four per cent swing (for Labour to capture Hampstead). If we don't win it will be pain beyond tears.'

Labour have a substantial lead in opinion polls but face a tough battle against Thatcher, who has won three general elections in a row.

Jackson said she was encouraged by the tide of democracy sweeping Eastern Europe but there was a danger that those countries could be 'turned into satellite labour markets for a capitalist economy.'

She was dismissive of the two Oscars she has won, in 1971 for "Women in Love" in which she appeared in the nude, and in 1974 for "A Touch of Class," one of her few comedies.

"Awards are about the people who give them and not the people who receive them. They don't mean anything."

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S. Korean opposition renews threats

SEOUL, July 18, (UPI): Opposition politicians renewed threats today that they will quit the national assembly en masse to force the one-house parliament to be dissolved and replaced by a new one through general elections.

Kim Dae Jung, leader of the main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, and Lee Ki-Taek, head of the minor opposition Democratic Party, met and agreed to a joint struggle against laws on the media and military passed by the government party.

Kim and Lee issued a statement and said the ruling Democratic Liberal Party "wiped out even the last chance of parliamentary politics" by ramming the controversial bills through the National Assembly last Saturday.

The political outrage committed by the ruling party denied the reason of existence for the current National Assembly, they said.

The statement said all 70 lawmakers of Kim's party and five legislators of Lee's group will submit resignations to the National Assembly on Friday and Monday respectively.

Elections

"Our two parties strongly demand (president) Roh Tae-Woo's regime that new parliamentary elections and local government elections be held at an early date at the same time, and that those bad laws illegally passed be corrected," it said.

Kim and Lee said they will get together on Friday with leaders of other anti-government groups to push a new unified opposition party. They also said they oppose a shift to a parliamentary cabinet system being pushed by the government party.

The disputed laws would place the armed forces under a unified command and restructure the nation's broadcast system.

Opponents have said the new command system could reduce civilian control over the military and the broadcast restructuring will place networks back under government control.

Government officials have said the change in the command setup was designed to meet the changing military situation in Korea and the broadcast laws were needed to meet demands for more varied information and to improve management of the existing networks.

Resignations

Four lawmakers including three Democrats and a legislator of Kim Dae Jung's party have already submitted resignations protesting the controversial legislation.

The opposition offer to quit the National Assembly must be approved by a majority of legislators when the assembly is in session. A resignation may be accepted by the assembly speaker when the assembly is not in session.

The government party has ruled out any premature dissolution of the National Assembly for new elections. Kim Young-Sam, No. 2 leader of the ruling party, has said the present National Assembly must sit until 1992 to the end of its term.

■ South Korea called North Korea today to immediately resume an inter-Korea lawmakers contact the North put off citing political developments in the South.

Chae Mun-Shick, chief Seoul delegate to South-North Korean legislators talks seeking to set the stage for a full parliamentary conference between the two Koreas, sent a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart Chon Gum-Chol, the government said.

Chae, replying to a Chon's Tuesday message notifying that a South-North lawmakers meeting scheduled for Thursday is being postponed, expressed surprise and disappointment at the North Korean move.

■ Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a letter to South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo proposing continued talks to promote relations between the two nations, a presidential spokesman said today.

The letter, in reply to Roh's letter sent immediately following the first Soviet-South Korean summit meeting in San Francisco on June 4, was received Monday through diplomatic channels, said Lee Soo-Jung, senior presidential press secretary.

■ Prosecutors said today that about 5,000 real estate speculators were rounded up in a four-month crackdown since early March.

Of those rounded up, 540 people were arrested and formally charged. About 4,000 suspects were booked for investigation and possible punishment, the prosecutors said.

They said prosecutor-general Kim Ki-Choon ordered a steady crackdown on speculation in land and houses.

Cambodian opposition's recognition withdrawn

US announces major policy shift

PARIS, July 18, (AP): In a major policy shift, the United States today announced it would withdraw recognition of the Cambodian rebel coalition dominated by the Khmer Rouge and open a new dialogue with Vietnam.

Secretary of State James Baker said the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia had made it possible for the administration to take an approach that many members of the US Congress favoured. Vietnam continues to back the Cambodian government it installed in 1976.

Under US pressure, the United Nations has awarded a seat each year to the coalition and denied formal recognition to the government led by Hun Sen. Baker did not say the United States would now support Prime Minister Hun Sen in taking over the UN seat.

Baker's announcement reflected a growing conviction within the administration that the Khmer Rouge forces not only dominate the US-backed coalition with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Premier Son Sann, but are on the verge of taking over Cambodia.

"It is very important to do what we can to prevent a return to power of the Khmer Rouge," Baker said as he made the announcement on the steps of the US embassy.

"We want to talk to Vietnam because we think it has influence with the Cambodian government to create conditions for elections," he said.

Baker said the policy change would strengthen the hand of Sihanouk, who has been supported by President George Bush's administration as the legitimate leader of Cambodia.

Baker did not explain how he believes Sihanouk could benefit from a shift by the United States in Vietnam's direction.

For years, the United States backed the Khmer Rouge's partners in the insurgency against a pro-Vietnamese government in Phnom Penh. The United States argued that the Cambodian government was a puppet of Hanoi and, by extension, of the Soviet Union.

■ Independence

But many analysts have concluded that Cambodia, although it may be aligned with Vietnam, has demonstrated increasing independence. The departure of Vietnamese forces strengthened this view.

Baker made the announcement after a two-hour, 15-minute meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who said the two superpowers were now "much closer" in their approach to Cambodia.

Baker's session with the Soviet diplomat was limited because Shevardnadze had a subsequent meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand.

Baker said he and Shevardnadze will meet again in the Siberian city of Irkutsk on Aug. 1. Baker will be on an Asian trip that will include a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Indonesia.

Talks between the United States and Vietnam could be the first step toward normalization of relations two decades after the United States gave up its military intervention in Indochina and accepted the spread of communist control to what was then South Vietnam, a US ally.

However, Baker stressed that for now the talks will be limited to the subject of Cambodia.

Relations

The United States has not had diplomatic relations with Vietnam's Communist government since the end of the Vietnamese war in 1975. Washington has maintained a trade embargo and lobbied against multilateral lending to Vietnam.

Recently, a Senate subcommittee voted to cut off US aid to the Cambodian resistance coalition. The House again approved open aid to the government, but opponents picked up more votes than ever before.

Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine called on the Republican administration to change its policy.

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They said prosecutor-general Kim Ki-Choon ordered a steady crackdown on speculation in land and houses.

Baker said he did not know if all Vietnamese troops have left Cambodia. The rebels claim some troops remain disguised as Cambodian soldiers.

Baker said that Khmer Rouge control of the country in the mid-1970s, when up to 2 million Cambodians were killed or died of starvation, was "extraordinary tragic."

The Khmer Rouge are militarily the strongest faction of the tripartite rebel coalition fighting the Vietnamese-backed government in Cambodia.



Saudi envoy in Taiwan

A special envoy from Saudi Arabia arrived in Taiwan Tuesday to meet Nationalist Chinese officials amid reports the oil-rich Arab nation will soon switch its diplomatic ties to the rival Beijing government.

Abdul Aziz Al Zamil, Saudi Arabia's minister of Industry and Electricity, flew in from Riyadh and will spend less than 24 hours in Taiwan before returning home, officials said.

Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien said Zamil's schedule may include a meeting with Nationalist Chinese President Lee Teng-Hui.

In the picture above: Al Zamil is greeted by Taiwan vice foreign minister. (Reuters wirephoto)

China-Saudi ties in Sept

Row over Quran resolved

BEIJING, July 18, (Reuters): China and Saudi Arabia are close to establishing diplomatic relations after settling the sensitive Taiwan issue and a hushed-up row over thousands of missing copies of the Holy Quran.

China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is expected to visit Saudi Arabia at the end of July to finalize an agreement which could lead to diplomatic ties between the two countries as soon as September.

A Western diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said it was breakthrough in long-running negotiations between China and Saudi Arabia since last week with a visit to Beijing by Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, Riyadh's ambassador to Washington.

Taiwan and the disappearance of a container full of copies of the Holy Quran sent by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to China were the main issues at stake.

Saudi Arabia is the last Arab country to have diplomatic relations with the nationalist government in Taipei which fled the mainland after defeat in the 1949 communist revolution.

Prince Bandar and the Chinese side agreed that Saudi Arabia would downgrade its embassy in Taipei to the status of a trade mission. Taiwan would follow suit in Riyadh.

Taiwan will not have to withdraw its embassy, just change its name, the diplomat said. "Trade ties, as long as they are not political, will be tolerated by China," he added.

China consented to a Saudi request that more Chinese Muslims be allowed to leave the country to make the annual Haj pilgrimage to Mecca.

Diplomats said Prince Bandar returned to Riyadh last week to brief King Fahd on the talks. Saudi Industry Minister Abdulaziz Abdulaziz Al Zamil would brief the Taiwanese in Taipei.

China's Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the talks with Prince Bandar.

"This is a victory for China over Taiwan, especially after the six losses," the diplomat said, referring to six African and Caribbean countries which, lured by attractive loans, switched allegiance from Beijing to Taipei over the past year.

A whole container of Qurans disappeared. They were probably burnt by the public security bureau. The police considered them "counter-

revolutionary" material, the diplomat said.

Muslims from Saudi Arabia had planned to distribute them in Xinjiang, the northwest frontier region which is home to many of China's 35 million or so Muslims.

An Asian diplomat said the atmosphere was tense, but said only a handful of the passengers knew what was happening. None of the 233 passengers on board the Beijing-Shanghai flight was harmed during the hijacking.

Asked under cross-examination whether Zhang physically threatened them in any way, the witnesses said he did not.

The crew members said they were afraid for the passengers during the hijacking and described the atmosphere as tense, but said only a handful of the passengers knew what was happening. None of the 233 passengers on board the Beijing-Shanghai flight was harmed during the hijacking.

Three witnesses — a stewardess, a steward or purser, and the captain — were called to testify. Statements from two passengers and Zhang's wife, who presumably were unable to attend, were read.

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Zhang's wife, who was not present, said in her statement that she saw her husband hand a note, written on Chinese money, to a crew member but did not know what was written in it.

Zhang's wife and 13-year-old son, who also was on board, were returned to China shortly after the hijacking. The official Xinhua news agency's report on the sentencing said the two "have not been implicated in any wrongdoing."

Zhang, when given a chance to rebut, called the testimonies "lies." But he failed to give a sufficient answer when asked by one of the three judges to be specific, the diplomat said, adding that Zhang spoke for only one or two minutes.

■ As a high-ranking Japanese delegation visited China, the Foreign Ministry spokesman for the Education Ministry. "But at the same time, the personality and flexibility of the student are being suppressed."

According to witnesses at the Takatsuka high school in Kobe, 300 miles (480 km) southwest of Tokyo, the teacher, Toshiko Hosoi, 39, pushed the gate shut when another teacher using a bullhorn reached zero in a 10-second countdown.

Hosoi allegedly kept his eyes focused on the ground while rolling the 18-foot (5-m) steel gate

Chinese hijacker jailed for 8 years

BEIJING, July 18, (AP): A Beijing court today sentenced a man who hijacked a Chinese airliner to Japan last year to eight years in prison.

Zhang Zhenhai, 36, was sentenced by the Beijing intermediate people's court after a two-hour trial for the Dec. 19 hijacking, said a Japanese embassy official who attended the proceedings.

Zhang was extradited to China on April 28 after the Tokyo High Court turned down his plea for political asylum in Japan.

Zhang said he took part in last year's pro-democracy movement, which was crushed by the army, and was fleeing political persecution.

China in the past has executed hijackers, although there is no provision in the criminal code for such a crime. Japan returned Zhang to China after receiving assurances from Beijing that he would not face a penalty of more than 10 years in prison.

Zhang, who broke his pelvis during the hijacking, was wearing a plastic brace around his torso, and his left leg dragged when he walked into the courtroom, flanked by two policemen, said the Japanese diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

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Evacuation

Filipinos await their evacuation from Baguio with a statue of the Virgin Mary yesterday after the city was rocked by a 7.7 magnitude earthquake on July 16, leaving the city virtually isolated. (Reuters wirephoto)

Full details Page 14

Release not imminent

Suu Kyi remains under house arrest

BANGKOK, July 18, (Reuters): Barring a surprise announcement from Burma's military government, opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi will begin a second year under house arrest in Rangoon on Friday, a symbol of her country's frustrated aspirations for democracy.

Since the opposition swept to victory in May 27 National Assembly elections the question of when the National League for Democracy (NLD) secretary-general will be released has been second only to that of when the military will band over power.

The chief of military intelligence, Major General Kyin Nyunt, last week gave a strong indication that neither was imminent.

"There has been pressure from foreign countries for an immediate transfer of power and the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi with threats of economic sanctions but we do not care about such threats," he said.

The petite former housewife, the daughter of assassinated independence hero General Aung San, was confined to her family compound overlooking the capital's Inya Lake on July 20 last year charged with inciting unrest.

She took her father's mantel during a popular uprising of August and September, 1988, against an authoritarian government that had led the once-prosperous country into backwardness and isolation.

Aung San Suu Kyi, meanwhile, spends much her time reading, having sold her piano to raise money.

Her British husband, Michael Aris, and her two children have been allowed to visit her but diplomats are not. Representatives of the military council frequently hold discussions with her, however.

Despite the omnipresent troops

NEWS IN BRIEF



Landslide kills 6

Landslides triggered by downpours and lightning claimed six lives Wednesday and injured 12 other people, police reported.

The central meteorological observatory said up to 16.6 centimetres (6.5 inches) of rain fell overnight in Seoul and surrounding areas.

Police officials said two people were crushed to death by a landslide while sleeping in bed when their house in a central district was buried under tons of mud and rocks.

Two others in the house were rescued by about 100 government workers and police who dug through the debris for more than six hours.

Europe

Havel to miss festival: Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel, under pressure to avoid a meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, will not open the Salzburg music festival next month as planned, the daily *Lidovky Noviny* reported yesterday.

The paper, which published an open letter from its editorial staff on Tuesday urging Havel to stay away from Salzburg, quoted "well-informed circles" in a brief item saying he would not attend the festival.

Havel's office said it had no comment on the report. "The story is based on speculation that we cannot confirm or deny," presidential spokesman Michael Zantovský said. (Reuters)

Trefgarne may resign: British trade and industry department is expected to lose another minister next week with the possible resignation of Lord Trefgarne as trade minister, it was reported in London yesterday.

The Times newspaper said that Trefgarne, is leaving after 13 years as a minister, to pursue a business career.

His resignation, likely to come only a week after Nicholas Ridley's, is expected to be announced when the planned reshuffle by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher next week of middle and low ranking ministers.

However, some senior peers believe that Lord Trefgarne, aged 49, can be persuaded to stay if he is offered a higher position. (Kuna)

Sea fish mystery unsolved: Scientists have failed to discover so far what killed six million starfish during May and June in the White Sea, in the far north of the Soviet Union, the official Tass news agency reported yesterday.

It said government specialists concluded that toxic substances were responsible but ruled out poisoning from rocket fuel dumped by a Soviet submarine in December 1989, radiation and desalination. (Reuters)

Mass graves of Moscow: The KGB is searching Moscow cemeteries for the unmarked mass graves of people executed during the purge of dictator Josef Stalin, the Tass news agency said yesterday.

The report represented the first public admission by the secret police organisation that there were believed to be mass graves in the capital. Others have been reported in more remote parts of the country.

An estimated 20 million people died in purges during Stalin's rule from the late 1920s to the early 1950s.

Under reforms initiated by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet press began reporting on the discovery of mass graves containing Stalin's victims about a year and a half ago. (AP)

Forest fire under control: Firefighters contained a two-day blaze yesterday that destroyed over 1,500 hectares of forest on Greece's popular eastern Aegean island.

Soldiers and civilians battling the blaze fanned by high winds, restricted it to a small uninhabited area near the centre of the resort island of Samoia within sight of the Turkish coast, said Vasso Delakaki, a prefecture spokeswoman.

Initial estimates showed the fire had destroyed more than 1,500 hectares (3,750 acres) of mountain pine woods, olive groves and scrubland. Delakaki said. (AP)

Italy to take drought action: Italy is taking emergency measures to counter a dry cycle which could bring high temperatures and low rainfall for the rest of the decade.

Southern farmers will receive special help to save their crops from being devastated, officials said yesterday.

At a meeting on Tuesday night, agriculture, civil protection and budget ministers agreed the government would decide which regions needed most help to deal with the effects of four years of inadequate rainfall.

Average rainfall has dropped by up to 70 per cent in some areas since 1986. Weather officials believe the dry spell could last through the 1990s. (Reuters)

Carla Hills remark

Tokyo official denies ill will

TOKYO, July 18, (AP): A senior official of the ruling party, accused of making sexist remarks about US trade representative Carla Hills, said today his remarks were intended to bolster the US official's image in Japan.

Koko Sato, deputy secretary-general of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was quoted earlier this week by some Japanese newspapers as describing Hills as condescending terms in his remarks on a two-hour conversation he had with her during a summit last week in the United States.

The mass-circulation Mainichi Shimbun quoted Sato as saying of Hills, "She is charming and cute, but a little old."

The Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest newspaper, also quoted Sato as saying, "She was delighted when I pressed her husband. She is a woman after all."

Today, Sato said he was trying to combat the prevalent image of the US trade representative in Japan as being tough, cold and even scary.

"I was just saying that when I switched from talking about business to talking about (our) families, she would suddenly become a housewife and mother," he told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"That's why I said it," he said. "When I said woman, I meant a family person."

"Many seem to be afraid of Hills, but if you talk to her, you realise she is a wise, fine person," he said.

Sato also said he had complimented Ms. Hills, 66, on seeming quite young.

Japan should improve

Japan should improve: Japan should improve the quality and the quantity of its aid to developing nations, an Economic Planning Agency advisory panel said in a report released on Wednesday.

It should increase the number of grants it gives developing countries as a proportion of overall official aid, the report said.

In 1988, grants made up 46.6 per cent of Japan's total official development assistance, compared with an average 78.4 per cent among 18 other donor nations in the same period, an agency official said. (Reuters)

Christian party wins

Christian party wins: The Christian-controlled party in Sabah, seeking more rights from the central Malaysian government, swept to power on Wednesday with a thumping election majority in the state on Borneo Island.

The Bersatu Sabah Party (PBS) was returned to power for a third term when final results on

Gold mine clash, 12 hurt

Gold mine clash, 12 hurt: Eleven black miners and a company security officer were injured in a clash at a South African gold mine near the town of Welkom, the mine owners said on Tuesday.

The fight broke out on Monday at St. Helena gold mine in the Orange Free State after a trade union meeting about retrenchment terms in the face of a gold price slump, miners' owners Gencor Ltd and union officials said. (Reuters)

Pope names new archbishop

Pope names new archbishop: Pope John Paul II has named Lawrence Patrick Henry as archbishop of the Metropolitan Church of Cape Town, South Africa, the Vatican announced Tuesday.

Henry, 55, was up to now auxiliary bishop and archdiocesan administrator in Cape Town, where the post of archbishop fell vacant some time ago. Vatican sources said the new archbishop is classified as "coloured" in South Africa. (UPI)

Nikolai Todorov Iinstens during the Bulgarian parliament session

Nikolai Todorov Iinstens during the Bulgarian parliament session (Reuters wirephoto)

Wednesday showed it took 36 of 48 elected seats after a bitterly contested but violence-free poll, which was clearly divided along ethnic lines.

The rival Muslim-based United Sabah National Organisation swept the remaining 12 seats. Five other parties failed to win any seats in the election, which had pitted a record 253 candidates in the timber-rich state, dubbed Malaysia's "Wild East" for its byzantine and sometimes violent politics. (Reuters)

Australia to recruit: The New South Wales Minister for Police Ted Pickering Wednesday supported plans to recruit police officers from Hong Kong, most of whom would be assigned to areas with a high proportion of Asians.

The move follows warnings of an impending "war" between gangs of Asian youths.

John Newman, the member of Cabramatta, a western Sydney Asian ghetto, Wednesday warned about such a "war" and has called for an increase in the number of Asian-born police officers in the area.

The proposal follows an increase in requests for information about jobs received at Sydney police headquarters from serving and former Hong Kong police officers. Many wish to migrate to Australia, Pickering said Wednesday.

Among the requests is an inquiry from a former senior inspector who worked extensively with the Hong Kong version of the New South Wales Independent Commission against Corruption. The inspector is also an expert on Triads, the powerful Mafia-style gangs. (UPI)

Hong Kong enforces: The Hong Kong government on Tuesday enforced stiffer regulations on tourists who purchase ivory in the British colony, the world's largest trader in ivory.

The new law requires tourists to obtain export licences for all ivory purchases. The regulations replace legislation that allowed tourists to export up to five kilograms (11 pounds) of ivory without a licence.

Local residents, however, can still freely export up to the five-kilogramme limit as long as the items are declared as "personal effects," according to a statement issued by the government.

The exemption was attacked by a conservation group, which said it could be exploited by unscrupulous traders to continue ivory exports.

David Melville, conservation officer from the World-wide Fund for Nature's local branch, described the exemption as a loophole in the law and called on the Hong Kong government to scrap the provision. (AP)

Singapore entry denied: More than 1,000 foreigners, mostly Malaysians, were tested positive for drugs by the instant urine testing machine at Woodlands' checkpoint and denied entry into Singapore last year, it was reported in Kuala Lumpur Wednesday.

The report said the number is expected to increase this year because in the first six months, 900 foreigners have been blacklisted.

The number of Singaporeans tested positive by the US 35,000 ETS urine toxicology analyser has decreased.

Last year, 121 Singaporeans failed the test.

The machine can analyse a drug suspect's urine within two minutes. It can also tell whether the drug consumed was heroin, morphine, opium or cocaine, the report said.

The machine was installed at Woodlands in 1988 to combat the problem of "anti-traffickers" who smuggled small doses of drugs into Singapore. The number has since dropped significantly. (Kuna)

Zambia referendum

Zambia referendum: Authorities on Tuesday announced rules for a referendum on the future of Zambia's one-party system and lifted a ban on opposition campaigning.

Judge Mathew Ngulube, head of the government-appointed referendum commission, said campaigning will be allowed from July 23 as long as the language was "sober and temperate" and did not defame individuals.

The secret ballot scheduled Oct. 17 will ask voters "if they support the reintroduction of a multi-party system," he said. (AP)

Zaire approves: Zaire's one-party Parliament on Tuesday approved the creation of a limited multi-party system.

The law, proposed by President Mobutu Sese Seko, allows three legally recognised political parties in the central African country.

It was passed by 264 votes to 27 with 10 abstentions. (Reuters)

Savimbi in Rabat

Savimbi in Rabat: Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi was in Rabat on Tuesday for talks with a top Portuguese official and King Hassan on moves to end Angola's 15-year-old civil war, the Portuguese news agency Lusa said.

It reported from Rabat that the Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) chief had been in Morocco since Sunday.

Unita representatives in Lisbon were not available for comment, but Portuguese officials said Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Jose Manuel Durao Barroso flew to Morocco on Tuesday to meet Savimbi. (Reuters)

Italy to take drought action

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Average rainfall has dropped by up to 70 per cent in some areas since 1986. Weather officials believe the dry spell could last through the 1990s. (Reuters)

case may be undermined.

"The way the trial is going, it looks like he'll get off scott-free," said prosecutor Capt. Nicau Aron.

"He's so ill he may not live to the end of the trial," said defence lawyer Paula Jakob after yesterday's session.

The 39-year-old Ceausescu told a local newspaper he is suffering from hepatitis and chronic cirrhosis of the liver and claimed he is being refused medical treatment in prison.

"I am beyond medicine now and anyway they refuse to treat me here," Ceausescu told the *Tribunal* newspaper in an exclusive interview from prison.

Despite his reputation as an alcoholic

Serbia pledge to stay firm

Opposition groups mark Chetnik memorial day

BELGRADE, July 18, (AP): Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, closing the founding congress of the republic's Socialist Party, yesterday pledged that the renamed communists would not swerve from their course.

In a bid to discard their conservative image, Serbia's ruling communists merged with a sister organisation and renamed themselves the Socialist Party.

Milosevic, who also is Serbia's president, was elected leader of the new party. It seeks to unite all left-wing groups in the largest Yugoslav republic.

"The left should not fear that this party will swing toward the right, while the right should not hope that this party will come closer to them," Milosevic said.

Two Serbian opposition groups, in another show of dissent, yesterday scheduled a memorial mass throughout the republic for Gen. Draza Mihajlovic, a former leader of royalist Chetnik guerrillas who fought com-

munist partisans in World War II.

About 2,000 anti-communists hailed Serbian Chetnik Movement President Vojislav Seselj, who praised the general as a "hero and martyr," and denounced the Serbian communist regime.

The rally also cheered Mirko Jovic, the leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, another nationalist party, and sang Serbian nationalist songs.

Police tried on two occasions to stop the rally on grounds that it was not officially approved, but the gathering ended without incidents.

Mihajlovic, depicted by the victorious communists as a war criminal, was executed after a brief trial on July 17, 1946.



Rescue workers try to save passengers trapped in the wreckage of a bus yesterday which careered off the road between Durban and Inanda black township after a minibus it was following was ambushed by gunmen. At least 26 people were killed in the crash. (Reuters wirephoto)



Emergency workers tend the wounded yesterday after a bus crash outside Durban which was caused when gunmen ambushed the vehicle. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gunmen ambush bus

28 killed in black violence

JOHANNESBURG, July 18, (AP): Gunmen ambushed a bus in an area hit by black factional violence today, shooting the driver and sending the vehicle out of control, killing at least 28 people and injuring 56, police said.

A police spokesman, who declined to be identified, said gunmen fired at the bus and a van in pre-

dawn darkness at Inanda in Natal province. The bus driver was hit by a bullet and the vehicle plunged down an embankment into a river, he said. The victims were all black, he said.

Rival black factions have been fighting in the area a few hours earlier, the spokesman said. Police were hunting for the attackers, but had made no arrests.

he said.

Natal has been hit by bloody fighting in recent years between the African National Congress, which is the main black nationalistic group, and Inkatha, a conservative Zulu political movement. The two groups oppose apartheid, but differ over plans for a future South Africa.

A local journalist, who asked not to be named, said the fighting was between ANC and Inkatha factions. The two groups had been shooting across the road at each other when the van and bus were hit, she said.

Police also said today that two men were stabbed to death in black factional violence in a separate incident in Natal.

A police patrol wounded two men when it was attacked by blacks

Iraq, Iran moving closer on border treaty: Rafsanjani

NICOSIA, July 18. (Reuter): Iran and Iraq have narrowed their differences over a border treaty which was one of the main causes of their eight-year war, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was quoted yesterday as saying.

Teheran Radio said Rafsanjani told a gathering of senior Muslim clerics on Monday night that a rise in oil prices and prospects of greater co-operation in the Gulf region were

benefits of the new mood of peace between Iran and Iraq.

"The talks have been useful so far and the two countries are expected to move towards peace," the radio quoted Rafsanjani as saying in reference to new negotiations which followed a peace initiative by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"The Iraqis' attitude towards peace has become more positive. The two countries'

envoys in Geneva are now holding talks and the two countries' viewpoints have come closer within the framework of the Algiers agreement."

Hussein tore up the 1975 Algiers agreement, which gave Iran sovereignty over the eastern half of the Shatt Al Arab border river, just before the Gulf erupted in September 1980.

Iraq, which has called for restoration of

Arab control over the whole waterway, wants an early clearing of the Shatt which is its main outlet to the Gulf.

Teheran, demanding that Iraq withdraw its troops from border areas, insists that the treaty is inviolable and its provisions should govern any dredging of the Shatt.

Regional press reports said Hussein had indicated he was willing to accept the border accord in the letter he sent Rafsanjani in May

proposing the two meet to discuss peace.

The Iraqi letter, followed by an Iranian reply and another from Baghdad, broke the deadlock in UN-mediated peace talks which followed the August 1988 ceasefire.

The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq met in Geneva two weeks ago, for the first time talking directly to each other rather than speaking through UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar as in previous meet-

ings. In the ice-breaking encounter, Iran's Ali Akbar Velayati and Iraq's Tareq Aziz did not discuss substantial matters, leaving them for their aides to thrash out in Geneva.

Rafsanjani said Iran wanted to establish peace by helping Perez de Cuellar to implement Security Council Resolution 598.

The only parts of the resolution so far implemented are the ceasefire and its policing by UN observers.

Soviets urge US to influence Israel

'Arabs have legitimate concern at Jewish influx'

PARIS, July 18. (UPI): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, saying "the Arabs have a legitimate concern," called on the United States today to use influence with Israel to stop the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

Speaking after holding two hours and 15 minutes of talks with US Secretary of State James Baker in Paris, the Soviet foreign minister said he had asked Baker that Washington "use all its authority to exert an adequate influence" so that new immigrants from the Soviet Union are not installed in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

"We are presenting no more obstacles" to the emigration of Jews

from the Soviet Union, Shevardnadze told reporters.

"But what preoccupies us very much is the problem of the installation of persons coming from the Soviet Union in the occupied territories."

In this regard, the Arabs have a legitimate concern," the Soviet foreign minister said.

Baker made no comment on the Middle East in remarks to reporters after the lengthy session with Shevardnadze.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy initially had been tentatively scheduled to meet with Baker in Paris after the two plus four talks as



US Secretary of State James Baker (right) speaks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during a break in the 2+4 German unification talks in Paris on Tuesday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Homeless protest

BAT YAM, Israel, July 18. (AP): Dozens of homeless Israelis barricaded themselves on the roof of city hall in this coastal town today to press demands for apartments. Some reportedly buried firebombs and others threatened to commit suicide.

The protesters, among them several small children, voluntarily climbed down from the roof this afternoon after city officials promised to arrange a meeting with Housing Minister Ariel Sharon over their demands for housing.

The 14-hour standoff marked the second violent protest in a week by Israelis who claim that skyrocketing rents have forced them out of their homes.

On July 11, dozens of protesters burned tires on a major intersection in Tel Aviv. That day, a homeless man in Jerusalem doused himself with gasoline and threatened to set himself on fire.

Many rents have doubled and tripled in Israel as a result of the influx more than 50,000 Soviet Jews who get rent subsidies a year in advance and can pay rents in a lump sum.

In mid-June, homeless families began moving into tents set up in city parks and in front of municipal offices. As of Wednes-

day, there were 33 such camps throughout Israel. The largest holds 62 families in Jerusalem's valley of the cross near parliament.

In Bat Yam, a coastal town just south of Tel Aviv, dozens of homeless moved into tents in front of city hall about three weeks ago.

Homeless leaders said that after officials ignored the group's pleas, they took to the roof around midnight yesterday and

refused to come down until they got results.

"We are sitting here already for three weeks, and nobody cares about us," protest organiser Avi Minio said on Israel Radio. "In Israel, if you don't pound on the table, they don't hear you. That's why we decided on this drastic action."

Israel radio reported that during the night demonstrators threw firebombs and a burning tire.

Israelis have been overwhelmed by a massive influx of Soviet Jews, expected to reach 150,000 this year. The immigration has caused an acute housing shortage, sparking some violent protest demonstrations over skyrocketing rents blamed on subsidies given to new arrivals.

Elazar, whose organisation serves as an umbrella for Ethiopian community groups in Israel, conceded that delays also might have resulted from efforts by Ethiopia's leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, to get arms supplies from Israel.

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GCC plan to encourage joint ventures

Unified customs protection system required

MANAMA, July 18, (Kuna): The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) is bracing itself to establish an integrated system to encourage joint industrial ventures among its six member states.

An authoritative source at the GCC's Secretariat General was quoted here yesterday by local

daily Al Ayan as saying Co-ordination and Arab industrial integration were essential steps towards realising Arab economic unity.

Mohamed Al Ali Al Rashid, director of industry, electricity and technology department at the secretariat general told the paper that a feasibility study on manufacturing communications

equipment in Kuwait and another for production of limestone bricks in Saudi Arabia are currently under way.

Rashid indicated that the most important step in the integration process was the issuance of a political decision on the application of a unified system for customs protection among the GCC

states, indicating that a technical committee would be set up next October to enlist commodities subject to protection in each country.

He said several technical committees had been formed to boost electricity co-operation between Arab countries, adding the committees were currently studying a project aimed at linking national

grids of the GCC countries to serve as a link between Arab Mashriq (Middle Eastern Arab countries) and the Arab Maghrib or North African Arab countries.

The GCC is made up of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman.

Salem arrives in KL for official talks

KUALA LUMPUR, July 18, (Kuna): Governor of Kuwait's central Bank, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah arrived here yesterday to begin a four-day official visit to Malaysia.

He is accompanied by his wife and the bank's assistant manager for international relations, Nabil Hamoud Al Saqabi.

They were welcomed on arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, 25km from here by the Malaysian Central Bank (Bank Negara) Governor Jaafar Hussein and Kuwaiti Ambassador, Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa.

Sheikh Salem told Kuna in an exclusive interview that he will hold discussions with his Malaysian counterpart on matters relating to bank operations.

"This is my first visit to Malaysia and I hope to exchange ideas and discuss matters of mutual interest with my Malaysian counterpart.

"I will also call on the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad and the Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin during my stay here," he said.

Sheikh Salem said he would also try to get first-hand information on Kuwait's investment activities in Malaysia.

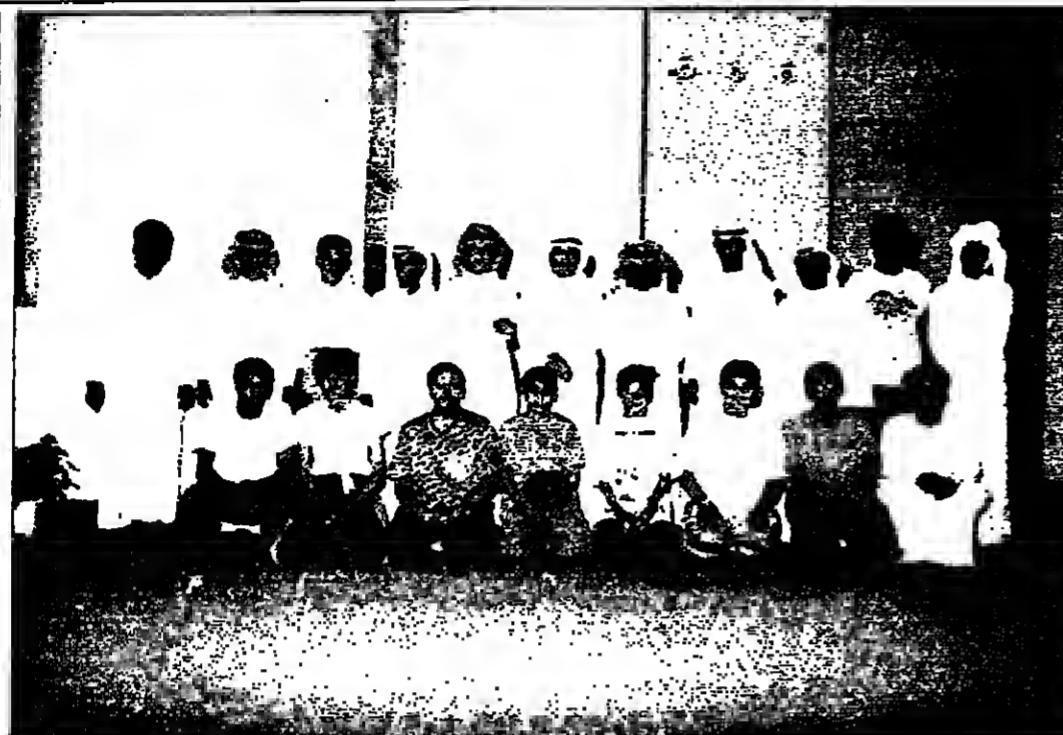
"As you know, Kuwait through the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) has invested a big sum in several industrial and agricultural sectors in Malaysia," he said.

However, he said, the purpose of his official visit here was not to discuss investment matters although he is a member of the KIA board.

He said co-operation on bank matters between Kuwait and Malaysia had been very good, adding: "I hope my visit here will further strengthen co-operation."

Asked whether Malaysia had requested loans from Kuwait, Sheikh Salem said: "I am not aware of this."

He added he was in Singapore for two days on a private visit.



Science Club trip

A delegation representing the Kuwait Science Club left Kuwait on a scientific overland trip to Jordan to join similar delegations from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The trip is organised in co-operation with the Environmental Protection Council.

Special scientific equipment has been provided to the team to enable members to carry out environmental studies.

The trip will take the delegation on a tour of many scientific institutes and universities in Jordan as well as to sites of historical importance.

Education ministry keen to ensure respect for teachers

Three new deans at KU

MINISTER of Education, Dr Abdullah Yousuf Al Ghunaim stressed that the ministry has a respectful outlook towards teachers for their role in the educational process. He emphasised the fact that the ministry is keen to ensure a place of honour for teachers in society.

These statements were made by the minister upon receiving a delegation from the Kuwait Teachers Society headed by the society board director Omar Al Gharib Monday.

Ghunaim pointed out that the objectives of the teachers society are strongly parallel with the objectives of the ministry. The minister expressed readiness to visit the society as soon as possible in order to discuss a number of issues and find solutions to the various problems.

The delegation head, delivered a speech congratulating the minister on his new post and pointed out the importance of constant co-operation between the society and the ministry for the interest of the educational process in the country.

Ghunaim invited the minister to visit the society in order to take a close look at the extra coaching classes organised by the society for students in order to know the various society activities.

On the other hand, the Minister of Education received at his office, the rector of the University of

Kuwait, Dr Shuaib Abdullah Shuaib and the general director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Dr Abdul Rahman Saleh Al Mhailan. The minister exchanged with his guests friendly talks and the guests congratulated the minister on his new post.

In a related development, the Dean of Acceptance and Registration at Kuwait University, indicated that co-operation has been made between the deanship and the Ministry of Higher Education regarding presenting applications and announcing acceptance results at the university.

He added that students not accepted at the Ministry of Higher Education scholarships are allowed to present their application to Kuwait University.

He pointed out that application reception activities held at the exhibits hall in Khaldya were very smooth and without any problems or obstacles.

He stated that the university may announce acceptance results on July 27, 1990.

Meanwhile, the Scholarships Department at the Ministry of Higher Education announced the names of students nominated for scholarships for the coming academic year. The ministry urged students who were not accepted to withdraw their papers and present them to the university.



Clubs inspection

Dr Rasheed Al Hamad, assistant undersecretary for planning and development at the Ministry of Education, accompanied by the director of Schools Activities Department, went on an inspection tour of the Nugra club for girls and the club for boys in Hawally.

Dr Hamad reviewed the different programmes of activities implemented by the club members, and listed the views and suggestions of club supervisors.

He also listened to brief accounts by students of the wide scope of activities provided by the club to its members to utilise their summer vacation in useful and rewarding activities. Picture shows Dr Hamad at the boys club in Hawally.

Agricultural functional overlapping to be sorted out

THE chairman of Kuwait Agricultural Engineers Society Mohammed Abbas stressed on the necessity to sort out functions between the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources and the public and private agricultural bodies. The overlapping of functions hinders agricultural work in Kuwait, he said. He added that authority has been achieving progress since 1983 due to its modern organisational and administrative structures.

The authority is able to make agricultural plans and carry them out to develop this vital sector. But he added that the authority is suffering from a shortage in Kuwaiti agricultural engineers.

There is a very small number of these engineers and this do not meet the ambitious projects and plans of the authority in the new Five-Year Plan. He added that the state believes that agriculture is one of the main strategic goals that are being applied to diversify the national income besides concern to animal and fish resources.

Abbas called for the transfer of the authority into a ministry of agriculture as in other Arab states. He added that agriculture in Kuwait represents a low percentage of national production compared to oil production. It will not form a high percentage in the near future, he said.

Arab nations transit point for drugs: study

Kuwait steps up anti-narc training

ACCORDING to a recent study

on narcotics prepared by the General Department for Planning and Information at the Interior Ministry the biggest hauls of hashish in the Arab world took place in Syria, Egypt and the Sudan. Between the period 1980 to 1986, 344,609.28 kilos of hashish were confiscated in Egypt, 29,242.594 kilos in Syria and 78,540.597 in the Sudan.

The study said that 6,370.610 kilos of opium were seized accounting for 21.20 per cent of the quantity seized all over the world. The Emirates apprehended 211,274 kilos, Egypt 486,271 and Syria 101,859 kilos.

The quantity of cocaine seized during the same period was \$2,736 kilos, accounting for 0.04 per cent of the quantity seized in the world, amounting to 12,791 kilos. The largest catches were made in Syria, Lebanon and Morocco.

Col Abdul Majeed Khorabut, director of the General Department for Planning and Information, author of the study, said that there is a drug mafia special-

ised in growing, producing and smuggling drugs to different parts of the world, crossing all regional and political boundaries. Their sole and only target is profit and undermining the productivity of generations of youth who are the major investment of all nations.

He said that the strategic location of the Arab world close to the major drug-producing countries, acts as a vital transit passage for various drug smugglers between East and West.

He added that the types of drugs most commonly confiscated included hallucinatory pills, hashish, opium, morphine, heroine, cocaine, LSD, barbiturates, ketapton and other mind-boggling drugs.

He said that drug addicts belonged to different economic and educational levels, and that the problem was more rampant among the poor and illiterate. The presence of secret drug factories and growing fields help promote the spread of the drug trade in the world, particularly in places suffering a lack of political stability.

He said that the relevant authorities in Kuwait implement special educational programmes aimed at raising awareness of the magnitude of social problems caused by the spread of drugs in the nation. An ad-hoc Higher National Committee was of late set up under the chairmanship of the Interior Ministry. The committee is entrusted with drawing up a general policy for combatting drugs, identification of drug-related problem dimensions, and factors responsible for the promotion of the drug trade and industry.

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Afforestation Week scheduled for Oct 15-22

A COMMITTEE to undertake preparations for the afforestation week celebrations scheduled to take place from Oct 15 through 22nd has been formed as per directives issued by the chairman of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij.

The activities of the week will include holding seminars and lectures which will take place at different clubs, youth centres and welfare societies.

The decision of the chairman also included stipulating the tasks of the committee to be represented by communicating with the information media in addition to preparing posters aimed at enlightening the public on the importance of the greenery process. Additionally, the committee will also distribute brochures highlighting the importance of afforestation and will organise competitions to select the best garden in the residential areas.

The committee will also be requesting agricultural firms to extend special discounts on purchases of all agricultural materials.

The committee is to be chaired by Abdul Mohsen Al Qallaf with Khalaf Al Shatti as deputy chairman.

Meanwhile deputy director-general of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources Dr Sultan Ahmed Sultan yesterday stressed the continuous co-operation between the authority and the municipality to ensure that meat imported into the country is free of harmful diseases and is suitable for human consumption.

The official was commenting on local press reports about a consignment of Australian sheep which has been rejected by Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates for fear that the sheep have scabby mouth and could therefore be dangerous for human consumption.

Dr Sultan said clinical tests on the shipment of Australian sheep confirmed presence of eight cases of apparent scabby mouth out of the rejected consignment of 48,000 heads, adding the shipment is still impounded pending finalisation of clinical laboratory tests.

However, the official indicated that the scabby mouth disease among animals is not dangerous either to public health or to man and is not contagious according to lists of the Paris-based international bureau of epidemics.

Haj deaths

Jakarta free to investigate: Zamel

SAUDI ARABIA said yesterday it would welcome a mission from Jakarta to investigate the deaths of hundreds of Indonesian Hajj pilgrims near Makkah during a stampede in a pedestrian tunnel earlier this month.

"We always welcome our brother Indonesians," visiting Saudi Industry Minister Abdulaziz Abdulla Zamel told reporters after meeting President Suharto.

While the Jakarta government has avoided assigning blame, there has been widespread anger in Indonesia over the tragedy on July 2 in which 1,400 Hajj pilgrims, 581 of them Indonesians, were killed.

The measures would not work because they were being channelled through the relatively ineffective Damascus-based Arab Boycott Office, it said.

He added that the stampede was just another joint Arab statement which did not reflect the real beliefs of the individual nations involved.

The decision by 12 ministers in Tunis was announced to support the Palestine Liberation Organisation's fight to stop the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Al Khaleej said the decision was just another joint Arab statement which did not reflect the real beliefs of the individual nations involved.

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23 more Malaysians missing in tunnel tragedy

Minister spends six days in S. Arabia

KUALA LUMPUR, July 18, (Kuna): Another 23 Malaysian pilgrims are reported missing in the July 2 Al Muaissen tunnel tragedy in Mina, Saudi Arabia, bringing the total number of victims so far, to 155.

Malaysian Minister in the prime minister's department Dr Yusof Nor who announced this on his return from the holy land yesterday said 91 of the victims had already been identified and their names released.

He said the Malaysian haj authorities (Tabung Haji) and Malaysian embassy officials in Saudi Arabia were still working to identify the remaining 64 Malaysian victims.

Dr Yusof was in Saudi Arabia for six days to obtain the latest information on the tragedy which claimed the lives of more than 1,426 pilgrims from various countries.

During his stay there, he called on the Saudi Haj and Awqaf Minister, Abdul Wahab Wasie, Home Minister Naif Bin Abdul Aziz and the Amir of Makkah, Prince Majid Bin Abdul Aziz.

Dr Yusof said Saudi authorities had taken photographs and finger prints of all victims to facilitate identification by officials of the countries involved.

He said the government is ready to assist Tabung Haji to identify the thumbprints if it required the services of experts by

deploying Malaysian police officers to Makkah.

According to Dr Yusof, about 80 per cent of the victims died outside the tunnel, near the area for the stone-throwing rites, while the rest perished at the mouth of the tunnel.

He said aerial photographs taken by the Saudi government of the scene of the tragedy reflected the masses of pilgrims who perished.

The pilgrims going in and out of the tunnel look like colonies of ants from the air," he said.

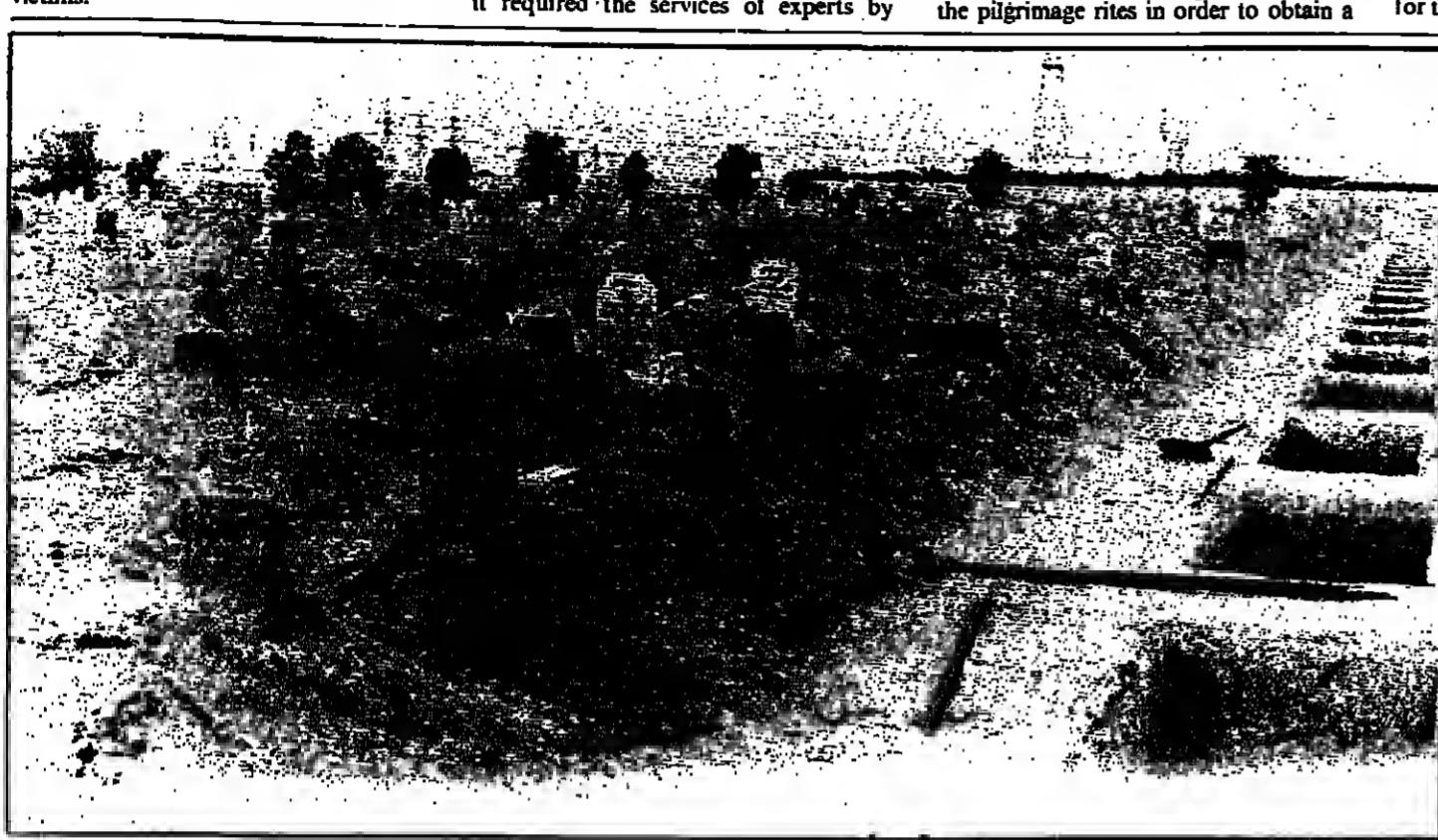
Dr Yusof said each year, the Saudi government takes aerial photographs of the pilgrimage sites in order to obtain a

better picture of areas needed attention in future.

He visited the scene of the tragedy and injured pilgrims being treated at the Nur Hospital and Hirat Hospital there.

From his interviews with the injured pilgrims, he found the claims that the deaths were caused by the tunnel collapse, damaged bridge or disruption of air supply in the tunnel were not true.

He said the Saudi government is conducting a preliminary study to construct another tunnel leading to the site for the stone-throwing rites from Al Muaissen, for the convenience of future pilgrims.



One of the 52 cemeteries in Kuwait.

Death rites

Free of charge services

SUPERVISOR of undertakings services at Kuwait's cemetery, Hamadeh said that corpses are received by the cemetery on presentation of the medical report and the ablations of the dead is the first step in preparing the body for burial. The ablations are carried out with a mixture of cedar and water.

Speaking to a reporter of a local daily, Hamadeh said, if the body still requires cleaning, it will be washed twice more up to seven times. Later it will be carried to a special slab where the body is dried, shrouded and placed in a coffin to be carried to the graveyard for burial. The death prayer, in which mercy and forgiveness is asked from Allah for the dead person is performed before burial.

Hamadeh said that some families want to perform the dead person with a special exquisite fragrance and this they may do so before burial, using sandalwood or rose or any other perfume provided it does not have detrimental effect on the dead person's body.

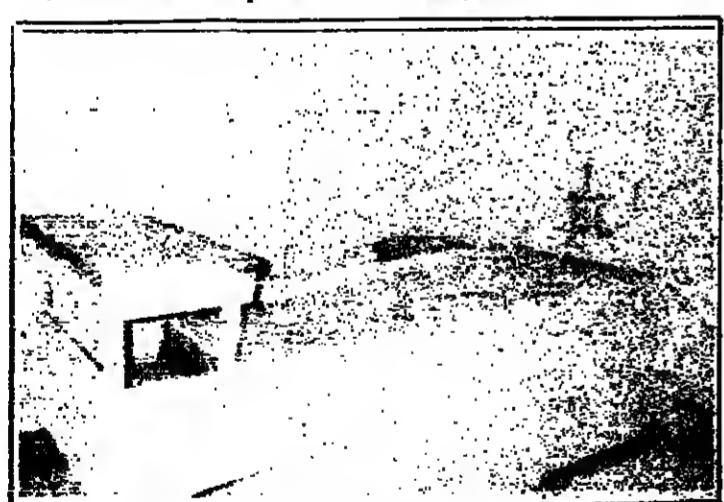
The dead person would be washed if one third of their body is intact, but if more than two thirds of the body is mangled Tayamum will be used to purify the body instead of water. Tayamum is the Islamic way of using earth instead of water for purification in times of emergency or whenever water is not available.

Hamadeh said that this happens when the dead person has been killed by a fire or in a car accident. If the body has turned putrid, however no cleaning or washing will be performed, and burial takes place immediately as the bad smell is intolerable and the chances of viral infection are high.

Speaking on the reason why women are denied access into the cemetery, Hamadeh said that a great many of them who come to pay respect to their dead husbands or relatives bring food, sweets or halalas with them. The way some of the women are dressed shows respect for the sanctity of the place.

He added that other reasons for banning the entry of women into the cemetery is the frantic outburst of emotions, loud crying or involvement in chest-beating and wailing which is warned against in Islam as modes of objection to the will of Allah, and that is Haram.

Hamadeh said that exhumation is possible if the dead person has not long been interred, and if the person has died under mysterious circumstances that requires further investigation by the authorities.



The stone slab where the bodies are washed



Cedar and camphor used to wash corpses.

Weather

HOT summer weather with light variable to moderate northwesterly wind. State of sea: Slight to moderate. High water: 7.35 am, 10.56 pm. Low water: 5.11 am, 8.44 pm. Sunrise: 6.48 pm. Sunset: 6.48 pm. Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 48°C (118°F). Al Khaldi: 42°C (108°F). Firdaus: 44°C (111°F). Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 47°C (117°F). Al Khaldi: 42°C (108°F). Firdaus: 45°C (113°F). Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 32°C (90°F). Al Khaldi: 33°C (91°F). Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 18 per cent. Al Khaldi: 8 per cent. Firdaus: 10 per cent.

Rumeithiya considered model area

RUMEITHIYA, is a quiet residential area where afforestation is progressing smoothly and residents in this area in general expressed their satisfaction with the services with the exception of a few inconveniences of minor proportion.

A local daily interviewed a number of residents to highlight their opinions.

Khaled Al Aslafi said that prices at the co-op are very expensive as compared with Bayan Co-op, though all essential goods are made available at the Rumeithiya Society. He added that cleanliness of the area is of the highest standards and cannot be faulted. He commented that the area could be considered a model area in the country, as it is well planned, has all the amenities needed and is bereft of crime. Recreational facilities are made available at the coastal front and the public garden.

He said that the Rumeithiya public garden is neglected and requires more care. Children games at the garden are often out of order and could pose a danger to some young children, he concluded.

places in the area, except the public garden which lacks attention. Rumeithiya Clinic is the scene of a rush of patients, particularly during the night and is caused due to the small size of the clinic, he said and commented that the establishment of a medical complex should be seriously considered which would reduce the number of patients from the clinic in addition to providing additional doctors.

Ali Abdullah Al Saffar residing at Block 9 said that most residents suffer due to the overflowing of sewage, though he praised the efforts of the municipality in removing the garbage on a daily basis.

He was critical of the attitude of some youth who drive their vehicles recklessly in the area and do not abide by traffic rules. He recommended that officials should pay more attention to establishing more youth centres in the area.

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Jordanian arrested for breaking and entering

THE CID men at Ahmadi Governorate arrested a Jordanian national Farouk A. on the charge of breaking into a house in Fahad area and stealing KD370 and some clothes. The defendant admitted he stole clothes and some cassettes.

CID men also arrested two Kuwaitis Bashir and Jamaal and a non-Kuwaiti Sameeb for stealing a cassette recorder and an amount of KD80. The defendants were referred to the relevant authorities.

Amadi CID men further arrested Abdul Latif R. (Kuwaiti national) on charges of stealing several cups from a sports club. He admitted he stole 22 of these cups. He was referred to investigation authorities.

Better care for thalassemics

Fund-raising a priority

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff



Dr Hala Al Rimawi

ABOUT one thousand thalassemics in Kuwait can look forward to additional medical and social care, thanks to the newly established Thalassemia Society.

With physicians, pharmacists, patients and parents on its board, the society aims at making life easier for those who suffer from this type of inherited anaemia that occurs with relatively high frequency in the Mediterranean area.

"We treat 500 cases at Al Sabah Hospital alone," said Dr Hala Al Rimawi, consultant paediatrician at the children's ward and the society's secretary-general. "We start treating these patients when they first manifest the disease at the age of one, and they stay with us until they are twenty and over."

She added that because their bone marrow cannot produce normal red cells, thalassemics have to have blood transfusions almost every month as long as they live. "But the problem with these transfusions is that they contain excess iron that deposits in their bodies and causes problems in their hearts, glands and skin. So they have to be given continuous medication to rid their systems of this excess iron."

Encouragement

"It is tough on parents to deal with children who have chronic diseases. Sometimes they get fed up and they need to be encouraged frequently," said Rimawi. "The society will organize lectures, trips and parties that will bring patients of different ages and their parents together so that they can share their experiences and provide one

another with much needed support.

Initiated by a pharmacist at Ciba Geigy Pharmaceuticals and Rimawi, the society which was recently announced by the Kuwait Medical Association also aims at minimizing the incidence of this hereditary disease. "A simple pre-marital test a couple can take in minute can tell us if they are carriers of the disease and if their children might get it," explained Rimawi who has been working with thalassemics for about fifteen years. "Public awareness is high on our list of activities."

"People should be told what thalassemia is. They should know that thalassemics can live a normal life like everybody else. When they know what thalassemia is they will stop asking questions like why are you pale, why are you short and why do you walk slowly," said Tahira Al Awadi, a member of the society's

board who has had thalassemia for most of her life. Thalassemics have special features common among them caused by the enlargement of their bone marrow.

Funds

The employee of the Arab Centre for Medical Literature added that Arabs still have a lot to learn about dealing with diseases and disabilities. "People should be evaluated with what they can offer society not with their looks."

Fund-raising is another priority on the society's list of activities planned for this fall. "We need money to be able to help fellow thalassemics. We hope that charitable people in Kuwait come forward for us," said Awadi. She added that some families have five thalassemic children and need help in buying medical equipment or even transporting their sick children to the hospital for treatment and frequent transfusions. "Also some people could be sent abroad for bone marrow transplant if a suitable donor is found."

Awadi thanked Dr Abdulla Al Rushaid, president of the society for his continuous support to the thalassemic patients and the new organization.

Board members of the Thalassemia Society are: Dr Abdulla Al Rushaid, president; Dr Hala Al Rimawi, secretary-general; Dr Lina Al Khoudari from Ciba Geigy Pharmaceuticals; Dr Qasim Al Saleh; Dr Durdai Daghistani; Dr Moaz Al Douri; Dr Ayesha Al Attar; Ibrahim Al Qabandi; Mrs Nuzera Al Yaacoub; Mohamad Hassan Jasem; Yousef Al Badwi; Tahira Al Awadi and Hanaa Al Othaidi.



Smugglers caught

The Criminal Investigation Department is interrogating four persons for smuggling alcohol and amphetamine pills into Kuwait.

An Interior Ministry release said that two Kuwaitis Mutlaq A. and Munir A. along with the Saudis Jafra A. and Mohammed M. were arrested with 100 crates of liquor in their possession.

They had ordered the crates from a European country aboard a container, the release said, adding that on searching the house of the defendant Munir, the CID men found 120,000 amphetamine pills.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir receives message

His Highness the Amir received today Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait Hans Demel who delivered a message to HH from Austrian President Kurt Waldheim (Kuna).

UAE envoy: His Highness the Amir today received the credentials of newly appointed United Arab Emirates' Ambassador to Kuwait, Obaid Khalifa Al Zaabi.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah (Kuna).

New system from Sept 1: As of Sept 1, 1990 an indirect infringement system in relation to traffic will come into effect, Kuwaiti News Agency (Kuna) quoted an official source at Kuwait's General Traffic Department as saying.

The system in its basic concept is intended to oblige all motorists to abide by all traffic rules and regulations.

To ensure the smooth operation of the system, the official said that about 580 officers from the Ministry of Interior holding ranks of major and major-general will be empowered to apply the proposed system.

These officers are authorised to issue traffic

tickets to violating motorists without interrogating the violator personally or otherwise.

Relevant tickets are to be sent to the traffic department by fax who will in turn communicate with the violator specifics of his violation.

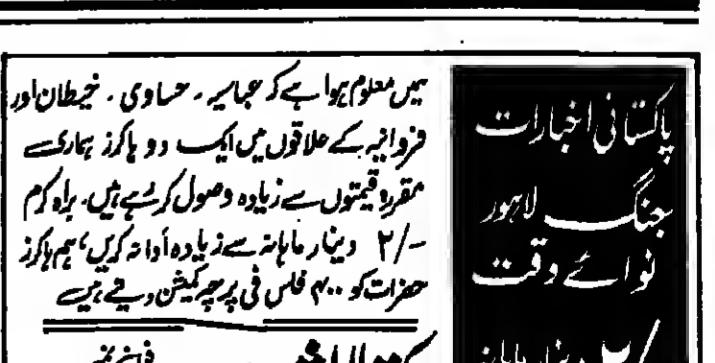
However, the motorist has the right to provide rebuttals to the cited infringement.

Fifth housing week: General Director of the National Housing Authority, Dr Ibrahim Majid Al Shabani issued a decision for the formation of the main committee for the Fifth Housing Week and the International Arab Housing Day celebrations which will be held on October 1, 1990.

The committee has held its first meeting along with other branch committees.

Police friends group: In the framework of activities organised by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour at youth centres, the Police Friends Group is assisting the administration of the Ministries Complex in preserving security by inspecting visitors at the complex.

The group took part in organising the visitors entrance at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour yesterday. The group also takes part in organising traffic with the co-operation of the Ministry of Interior.



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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WE LEARN from history that we learn nothing from history — George Bernard Shaw, English playwright (1856-1950)

Communist ploy fails

Serbians find head in writer

BELGRADE, (UPI): With his dark, tangled locks of shoulder-length hair, unkempt beard and fiery eyes, Vuk Draskovic appears to be very hit the Messianic leader to growing numbers of Yugoslavia's majority Serbs.

"I am not a Moses, but probably my locks are like him," said the 43-year-old former communist, denying he is trying to emulate other erstwhile European Marxists who have gained power after alleged democratic reincarnations.

"My dream is to end communist rule in Serbia and, after that, immediately return to my room... and write my books," the opposition leader said in an interview.

It was Draskovic's novels glorifying Serbian history that helped push him to the front of a nationalist wave that is sweeping the largest of the six republics in this multi-ethnic nation of 23 million, fueling fears of a possible civil war.

He believes such a war will be avoided. But he is sure Serbia will have to use force to crush ethnic Albanian separatism in its long-troubled Kosovo province, cherished with fanatical devotion by 8.5 million Serbs as the cradle of their heritage and religion.

"The war between Serbs and Albanians will be very short, although we are not for that solution. But room for negotiations is closed," said Draskovic, the leader of the Serbian Revival Movement.

Draskovic is in direct competition with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who has been stoking the embers of Serbian nationalism for the past several years to create a solid power base for himself.

The communists have themselves in blame for paving the way for Draskovic's rise by banning the Kosovo crisis as a means of avoiding extinction. They harassed long-suppressed Serbian nationalism and consolidated Milosevic's assumption of power in 1987.

Their tactic worked for a while.

But many Serbs became disenchanted with renewed anti-Serbian unrest in Kosovo and Milosevic's failure to resolve the problem. Attention began shifting to nationalists like Draskovic, who sought the same appeal as the communists but lacked the stigma of adherence to Marxism.

Draskovic got a major boost in April when nationalists in Croatia and Slovenia ousted communists in the first free assembly elections held in Yugoslavia since the 1945 communist takeover.

He called for immediate elections in Serbia and the enactment of a new constitution enshrining Western-style parliamentary democracy and restoring the Serbian royal family.

But he urged the elimination of virtually all constitutionally endowed autonomy for Kosovo to stifle Albanian separatist aspirations and right what many Serbs regard as the treacherous partition of their republic by Marshal Tito, the Croatian who led postwar Yugoslavia until his death in 1980.

Draskovic said the 1.7 million-member ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo should continue to use its own language and practice Islam. But he advocates expulsion — by force, if necessary — of those refusing to accept Kosovo as part of Serbia and to accept the Serbian state as their own.

There are about 200,000 Serbs in Kosovo, where a centuries-old conflict intensified after Tito's death because of growing ethnic Albanian demands for independence from Serbia.

Many ethnic Albanians are calling for independence from Serbia and the elevation of Kosovo to the status of a republic within the Yugoslav federation. But there are some extremist elements who want complete independence and merger with adjacent Albania in a "greater Albania."

As with other politicians, Draskovic realises Kosovo is the key to political success in Serbia. His fanning of Serbian passions over the seething Kosovo issue cast him as a power-hungry extremist in the eyes of smaller Serbian opposition parties, rival ethnic groups and diplomats.

But his critics also acknowledge that Draskovic's opinions are shared by most Serbs and reluctantly agree with him for democracy and multi-party elections, he is actually a voice of moderation among a growing chorus of Serbian extremism.

A mixture of nationalism and anti-communism, his messages have even been embraced by Serbians abroad. Last year, he staged a fund-raising tour of Serbian communities in the United States, where several of his books are being translated for publication.

"The party led by me is the most popular party," he asserted, contending it will triumph easily in promised assembly elections.

Those are not empty words.

In an effort to preserve his strength among voters, Milosevic has claimed many of Draskovic's positions as his own despite nearly daily rebuke of the opposition leader by the communist-controlled media.

Draskovic also is attacked by his more extreme opposition rivals as a communist collaborator because he still lives in the large apartment he was given when he was top aide to a former boss of Yugoslavia's labour federation.

He denies the charge of collaboration, but not his past and explains his political reactivation with the story of St Paul.

"The role of Jesus Christ, in my case, was the truth. Reading documents, books, travelling around the world, I found the truth and accepted," said Draskovic, who worked as a reporter in Africa for Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency after graduating from Belgrade University with a law degree.

Draskovic's rallies tend to reinforce an ominous image. His supporters wear militaristic Serbian costumes, waving banners emblazoned with the two-headed eagle of the former Serbian royal family or the cross of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Their slogans promise destruction to Serbia's enemies.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1545 — French force lands on Isle of Wight against British.
1551 — Treaty of Kalsburg reaffirms Archduke Ferdinand's right to crown of Hungary and Transylvania.
1588 — Spanish armada is sighted off Cornish coast of England.
1610 — Basil Shuisky, Tsar of Russia, is deposed after Swedish army under Jacob de La Gardie, sent against Polish invaders of Russia, is forced to surrender.
1712 — Britain and France sign truce.
1780 — France declares war on Prussia, opening Franco-Prussian war.
1907 — Emperor of Korea abdicates under Japan's pressure.
1918 — German armies begin retreat across Marne river after being defeated in their last great offensive in France during World War I.
1928 — King Fuad stages coup in Egypt and Parliament is dissolved.
1943 — Allied Air Force stages first raid on Rome, Italy, in World War II.
1956 — United States and Britain inform Egypt they cannot participate in financing Aswan dam project.
1960 — Soviet Union protests to United States over plan to equip West Germany with Polaris missile.
1973 — Palestinian gunman seizes 17 hostages in Athens but releases them after being promised safe conduct out of Greece.
1975 — US and Soviet astronauts and cosmonauts end their two-day linkup in space.
1987 — Landslides and severe flooding in Italy claim 14 lives.
1988 — Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government celebrates ninth anniversary of its revolutionary victory.



Lafontaine posing for photographers. (Reuter wirephoto)

Soviet triumph a plus for Kohl

Lafontaine puts on brave front

EAST BERLIN, (Reuter): Oskar Lafontaine, the opposition Social Democratic (SPD) candidate for chancellor in the first pan-German election, looked more like a loser than a challenger as he toured an East German building site on Tuesday.

Lafontaine, 46, tried to put a brave face on Chancellor Helmut Kohl's triumph in securing Soviet agreement to a united Germany's membership in Nato — a breakthrough which almost certainly consigns the SPD to defeat in December's polls.

"It's certainly a step forward, especially concerning the commitment to reduce troops. It is a sensible agreement," the opposition leader said of Kohl's accord with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Obstacle

Moscow's agreement to grant Germany full sovereignty from the start of unification and withdraw its troops from East Germany within four years in exchange for 370,000-man limit on future German armed forces effectively removed the last major international obstacle to unity on Western terms.

It also undermined Lafontaine's charge that Kohl had offended friends and neighbours with his headlong dash towards unification, set to happen little more than a popular uprising.

Even the left-wing daily *Tageszeitung* headlined: "Kohl triumphs in the Caucasus: Mikhail Gorbachev releases a united Germany into Nato — Breakthrough on all fronts."

Lafontaine doesn't have the confidence of the people over here the way Kohl has. Kohl got more than expected in Moscow, he has everybody's sup-

port," said Juergen Fentz, a heating worker at the building site.

Kohl's Christian Democrats scored a surprise landslide victory over the SPD in East German elections in March by campaigning for the fastest possible unification and proposing rapid economic and monetary union with West Germany.

Pleaded

Lafontaine, who pleaded for a slower path to unity and warned of the high social cost, said his visit was to learn about the situation in East Germany since the July 1 merger of the German economies.

He called on Monday for a 115 billion mark (\$69 billion) investment programme to improve East German roads, railways, telecommunications, energy supplies and environment.

Asked whether he was still keen to run against Kohl after the chancellor's Soviet triumph, the challenger smiled and said he was relieved no longer to be the front-runner.

"In election campaigns, everything is decided in the last few weeks," he said.

Political analysts said the SPD's only chance of winning was if East Germany's economic collapse triggered mass unemployment and social unrest by December.

But the CDU-led Bonn and East Berlin governments have taken measures to ensure that the real level of unemployment will be concealed by short-time working and short-term credits until after the election, industry sources say.

West gives East Europe tied aid

LONDON, (Reuter): Almost imperceptibly, Eastern Europe's economic crisis has cast the West in the role of the policeman of world aid, laying down tough political conditions for help that could soon be extended to the unruly democracies of Central America and Africa.

Within the space of 12 months, the Western industrial world has set in place an aid strategy for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union that is based not just on the need for economic reform but also on a growing catalogue of political demands.

In contrast to the ostensibly non-political conditionality imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its lending to the Third World, Western leaders are now openly linking aid to demands for multi-party democracy and arms cuts.

"There is an increasing interference in the design of policy — and in politics," said Professor Mike Faber, fellow at the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University.

Over the past year, Western governments have seized on the historic chance to recast Eastern Europe into the free market mould and are building on the economic triumph of capitalism over communism to extract far-reaching political reform.

The United States is urging Western nations to adopt the same policies towards Central America, where, to Washington's delight, democracy is taking root; aid donors are also hinting at a crackdown on African military spending.

Economists trace the Western policy shift back to the "Summit of the Arch," the economic gathering

of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial democracies in Paris a year ago which set in train a co-ordinated rescue programme for Poland and Hungary.

The United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy adopted a measured tone, stating: "We recognise that the political changes taking place in these countries will be difficult to sustain without economic progress."

But as the collapse of communism spread like a bushfire through Eastern Europe over the next months, the West's stance grew bolder, leading to the drawing up of five criteria to determine if a country merited support:

— adherence to the rule of law.

— respect for human rights.

— introduction of multi-party political systems.

— holding of free and fair elections.

— development of market-oriented economies.

To demonstrate this was not just a vague shopping list, the Group of 24 (G-24) industrial nations now co-ordinating aid to East Europe decided earlier this month that violent suppression of demonstrations in Romania meant Bucharest did not qualify.

"These criteria send a clear message to reformers and old thinkers alike," US Secretary of State James Baker said at a meeting of the G-24 in Brussels two weeks ago.

Western assistance is designed to support fundamental political and economic reform. Its purpose is not to maintain the status quo or to avert the problems of the past."

Economists believe West Germany's recent decision to grant Moscow a \$3 billion credit guarantee was a key factor in persuading Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to lift his objection on Monday to a united Germany's membership of Nato.

But the tough new policy also looks like spreading beyond the confines of Eastern Europe and Moscow's former satellites.

The G-7 went one step further at their Houston summit last week, telling the Soviet Union that the price for Western help was arms cuts and a reduction in support to "nations promoting regional conflict," a clear reference to Moscow's aid for Cuba.

Economists say the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union's economic and political crisis has put the West in a unique position of power to demand change.

While the IMF and World Bank have often been accused of sparking bread riots in Africa and Latin America by urging economic reform in return for credit, they have traditionally sought to avoid overt political interference in policy-making.

The dividing line has often been extremely thin and Faber said conditionality had been hardening over the past years as the Fund addressed controversial issues such as arms spending.

But the revolution in Eastern Europe tipped the balance when Western nations grew increasingly confident that their free market policies had won out over central planning and as nations became increasingly willing to turn their back on communism.

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Art Buchwald

Trump rarely seen nowadays

I DON'T see Donald Trump as much as I used to. But when I do, it makes my day. The other morning he walked into the coffee shop and took the stool next to mine.

"How is it going?" I asked him.

"I can't complain," he replied. "Are you planning on eating the other half of that English muffin?"

"Why do you want to know?"

"I hate to see English muffins go to waste."

"Be my guest," I said. "I hear that you've got trouble with your wife and the banks."

"Don't believe everything you read. I'm only having trouble with my wife because of the banks, and I'm only having trouble with the banks because of my wife."

"It's all part of doing business. The problem with banks is that they beg you to take their money, and when you do they get mad if you can't pay it back. Are you going to eat all that marmalade?"

I handed it to him. "I'd give you some coffee but I have only one cup."

"It's OK," he told me. "I'll drink out of the saucer."

I then said, "So tell me, Donald, where did it all go wrong?"

"I can only blame it on my good name."

"Why your name?"

"The public begged me to put it on everything."

"Skyscrapers, plazas, Taj Mahals, soccer teams, airlines and heavyweight prize fights. I was within a whisker of their changing New York to Trump City. Everyone said that Trump was on a roll, but something scary happened on the way to Atlantic City. A chartered bus full of little old ladies in tennis shoes broke down outside Paterson, NJ. The ladies were coming to the Taj Mahal to play the slot machines, and when they didn't show I started drowning."

"Why?"

"Those women were my cash flow for June."

"One bus load?" I spluttered.

"It's obvious that you've never seen little old ladies play slot machines in Atlantic City."

Donald was removing packets of sugar from the bowl and sticking them under his shirt.

"Donald seemed pleased. "What did he say?"

"The counterman replied, "He said that you gave the best coffee he ever had."

"The counterman was right. "He said that you gave the best coffee he ever had."

"Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Nato

Soviet yield to Germany membership hard choice

MOSCOW, (Reuter): President Mikhail Gorbachev swallowed a bitter pill in yielding a united Germany to Nato, but can expect political and economic benefits to ease his domestic problems.

The Soviet leader accepted a move he had long opposed.

The smiles and handshakes after talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in southern Russia on Monday belied harsh political realities for Gorbachev. After 45 years Moscow was abandoning its Western outpost.

"Gorbachev bowed to what he knew was inevitable, though no one doubts it took courage to say something that only six months ago he insisted was out of the question," one Western diplomat said.

The Soviet President grasped the nettle at a news conference with Kohl, saying with an ironic lapse into German he would accept German membership of Nato in the spirit of "Realpolitik".

Gorbachev, keen to avoid any appearance of weakness at home, presented the concession as an answer to Nato's London summit decision to review nuclear policy and drop its antagonism towards Moscow.

"The last weeks have been spent looking for ways to allow Gorbachev to back down without losing face at home. The London declaration seems to have done the trick. It's relieved him of a burden and improved his chances of Western aid," the diplomat said.

The news conference was shown live on television during working time. But 24 hours later, Gorbachev's decision had still not been spelled out in radio, television or newspaper reports — a measure, perhaps, of its sensitivity at a time of

Crisis shows power politics still dominate in India

NEW DELHI, July 18. (AP): Prime Minister V.P. Singh's battle with his chief rival in the cabinet showed that old-style patronage still plays a big role in India's political life.

But Singh's victory in the four-day government crisis also demonstrated that India's traditional power politics may be changing as the democracy matures.

In last year's election, Singh ousted the Nehru-Gandhi family, which had governed India virtually since independence in 1947.

Over the weekend, he forced the Deputy Prime Minister, Devi Lal, to rescind the appointment of his son to a powerful local post.

Singh, a self-styled champion of clean politics, emerged from the fight slightly muddied.

"No doubt V.P. Singh's image has suffered. The events have damaged his reputation, but he will come out of it," predicted Bhabani Sengupta, a political commentator for the

Centre for Policy Research.

"What happened was a clash between the old style of politics and the new style. Singh wanted to be democratic, but Devi Lal played the bad old game and he lost," Sengupta said in an interview.

The crisis erupted last Thursday when Devi Lal engineered the reappointment of his eldest son, Om Prakash Chautala, as chief minister of the northern state of Haryana.

Chautala, 55, previously held the post, but was accused of indirect responsibility for election violence in his constituency that killed at least 12 people, including an independent candidate. He was forced to quit May 22, but the violence was never investigated.

News reports said his reappointment was

part of a deal between Singh and Devi Lal to end a cold war between them. Denials from both failed to dispel all suspicion.

Challenged by Devi Lal, Singh resorted to a threat to resign. Many commentators

thought it was a ploy, and he retracted the threat within 24 hours.

Before the conflict was resolved, 13 ministers in the 38-member cabinet, or council of ministers, resigned and the workings of government came to a halt. Air Force planes flew leaders from around the nation to New Delhi, where some 100 meetings took place in four days.

The crisis ended Monday when Chautala agreed to step down "for the good of the

party." His father remained in the cabinet, and the 13 ministers who quit were reinstated.

But few believe the game has been decided. The skirmish exposed the deep cracks in the governing Janata Dal Party, which dominates the five-party minority coalition and underlined the personal hostility between Devi Lal and Singh.

"After all this mudslinging, it looks they all are friends again," said Mool Chand Jain, a political analyst in Haryana.

Sharif: We can cap violence, terror tide

Benazir's rival blames ruling party for weakness

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

PAKISTAN'S top opposition leader and Chief Minister of Punjab Nawaz Sharif has blamed the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for contributing to a rise in crime and violence in the country. He also said, given the chance, his party can "stem the tide of anarchy all over the country."

In an exclusive interview with *Arab Times*, Nawaz Sharif blamed the "weakness of the federal government" for a breakdown in law and order and encouraging sectarian strife and drug lords in Pakistan.

Troops kill 150 Tamil rebels

COLOMBO, July 18. (API): Government troops pushed through rebel defences in the North and East, killing about 150 Tamil Tiger militants, military officials said today.

They said at least 98 rebels and seven Sinhalese soldiers were killed in two battles yesterday at the village of Manakulam, 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Vavuniya.

Manakulam, 215 kilometers (133 miles) north of Colombo, has been a major scene of fighting in the latest round of the war between government forces and separatist rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Also yesterday, helicopter gunships strafed guerrilla positions at Mandur village in the eastern district of Ampara, killing 51 militants, said the officials.

The latest deaths bring to 2,549 the number of combatants killed since June 11, when fighting erupted after a 13-month ceasefire. A large but unknown number of civilians also have been killed.

On Monday, Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said several battalions of troops were moved from the east to the north after the rebels overran a key army camp in the region.

He did not give the number of troops moved. A Sri Lankan army battalion consists of about 850 soldiers.

Tamil Tigers captured the Kokkavil army camp July 11 after killing 46 of the 60 defending soldiers. They also blew up a government-owned television relay station near the camp.

Officials said the reinforcements started their operation yesterday, pushing the rebels back and recapturing a government hospital in Manakulam, just south of Kokkavil.

The advancing soldiers also rescued about 200 soldiers trapped by a rebel siege at an army camp in Manakulam since June 11, said the officials.

Further north, rebels shot and badly damaged a car belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross that was escorting 12 trucks, said the officials.

The trucks were coming into Jaffna to collect food and medicine for transportation to the Jaffna peninsula, officials said. There were no casualties.

At least 290,000 are reported to have left their homes in the Jaffna peninsula and sought refuge in temples, mosques and churches.

The guerrillas have seized control of most of the north and some areas in the east since the latest round of Sri Lanka's seven-year-old civil war recommenced. Fighting started after a Tamil man complained to the Tamil Tigers he was manhandled by Sinhalese police.

About 100 American, British and Swiss citizens are stranded in Jaffna in the northern province of Sri Lanka because they are unable to leave the area due to security reasons, a security official based in Colombo said.

The Swiss embassy in the island has made an appeal to the Defence Secretary-General Cyril Rantunge, to help evacuate these stranded people, the official added.



Nawaz Sharif during a campaign rally in Karachi.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sikh extremists kill 14: Sikh extremists staged attacks across India's northern Punjab state, robbing banks and killing 14 people, including three policemen who were escorting a newspaper distribution van, police said yesterday.

Police blamed all the incidents on Sikh radicals who have been waging a bloody campaign since 1983 to create an independent state called Khalistan, or "land of the pure," in Punjab.

In the worst attack early yesterday, six armed militants in a car chased and intercepted the van of the Hind Samachar group of publications near Jagraon, 80 miles (130 km) west of Chandigarh, and opened fire, police said.

They said all five occupants of the van, including three police escorts, were killed. (UPI)

V.P. Singh to lead top team: India's Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh will pay a four-day visit to the Soviet Union from July 23, his first to a major foreign capital since he came to power last December, an official spokesman said on Wednesday.

Singh, who is also defence minister, will be accompanied by his ministers of finance, commerce and external affairs as well as senior officials, the spokesman said.

Singh emerged victorious on Monday night from a power struggle with his deputy that raised doubts about the longevity of his minority government.

The Soviet Union is India's chief political ally and major arms supplier and India is the leading Soviet trading partner among developing countries.

Trade between the two in 1989 was a record \$4.64 billion, according to Soviet figures.

A five-year trade agreement expires this year and Indian officials say a new agreement could be signed during Singh's visit.

Repatriation of Afghan refugees: The repatriation of over three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, hoped for since the signing of a bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan in April 1988, and another two and a half million in Iran, remains stalled due to intractable political situation in Afghanistan, according to a report by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Submitted to the on-going session of the Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), the report notes that in the face of worsening financial crisis, the UNHCR has had to contend with the problem of increasing number of refugees.

Malawi, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, and, most recently, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea all had experienced additional or new influxes. In the early part of 1989, the most serious of these influxes had occurred in the Horn, where over 300,000 Somali refugees entered the Juba and Awdra districts of south-eastern Ethiopia.

Events in Mauritania and Senegal also caused large-scale displacement of people from both countries last year — with some 50,000 Mauritanians arriving in northern Senegal and 20,000 Senegalese arriving in Mauritania.

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Indian paramilitary personnel patrol in the empty streets of Srinagar yesterday (Reuter wirephoto)

Troops kill 34 rebels

Indo-Pak talks on Kashmir open in Islamabad

SRINAGAR, July 18, (Agencies): The Indian official charged with controlling the Muslim uprising in the northern Kashmir valley predicted "difficult weeks" ahead today amid reports that soldiers killed 34 militants trying to enter India from Pakistan.

Governor Girish Saxena, the New Delhi-appointed administrator of Indian ruled Jammu and Kashmir state, said Muslim rebels fighting for independence from India had stepped up activity since mid-June, but "we are checking them up, and over 100 Pakistani-trained militants have been arrested during the last month."

Despite the number of rebels captured, the governor said huge amounts of arms and ammunition were thought to have entered the mostly Muslim Kashmir valley in recent weeks along with substantial numbers of fighters. "We may be heading for difficult weeks," he added.

Saxena's remarks came in an interview hours after Indian troops ambushed a group of Kashmiri militants last night as they tried to infiltrate across the border from Pakistan.

Officials said the soldiers killed 21 of the rebels during the ambush. Soldiers chasing the rest of the infiltrators killed another 13 militants in clashes last night and today.

The death toll was the heaviest between militants and Indian forces along the border since the Muslim separatist movement against Hindu-dominated India gained widespread support in mid-January. Officials said the rebels were carrying AK-47 rifles, light machine-guns and a grenade launcher.

Residents of the Kashmir valley staged a general strike today to protest talks in Islamabad between India and Pakistan apparently focusing on reducing tensions over Kashmir.

Authorities imposed a curfew on most of Srinagar today to prevent violence related to the strike, which was called by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the leading Muslim militant group fighting for independence.

The JKLF said no talks between India and Pakistan were acceptable unless the people of Kashmir were equal partners.

In New Delhi, the government announced that Jammu and Kashmir state, would be placed under presidential rule beginning on Thursday following the end of gubernatorial rule in the state.

"A situation has arisen in which the government of that state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of India," a proclamation issued today said.

Crowds defied an army-enforced curfew in Srinagar, shouting "Kashmiris are not sheep, we belong in the talks" and "we will fight to the last man," witnesses said.

Militants exploded four bombs and exchanged fire with security forces in several places in Srinagar last evening.

Meanwhile, foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan held formal talks in Islamabad today aimed at defusing tension between the two countries over the Kashmir issue.

External Affairs Secretary N. Uchakand Dubey led the Indian delegation at the talks while Foreign Secretary Tariq Ahmed Khan headed the Pakistani delegation.

Approached by a correspondent after the first round, lasting over three hours, Dubey said: "No comments about trend or contents of discussions." Asked about the atmosphere at the talks he said "it was all right."

Following the talks Dubey called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the presidency and exchanged views with him on Indo-Pak relations.

Talks

(Continued from Page 1)

independence or a union with Pakistan.

At least 716 people have been killed in Kashmir since January.

In May, bitter rhetoric between the two countries and troop movements along their borders raised fears they would go to war a fourth time.

In the past month, however, the tension has eased. India has withdrawn about 50,000 soldiers from its borders with Pakistan in the south-eastern state of Rajasthan.

Despite that move, Pakistan contends India has redeployed about 100,000 soldiers to Jammu and Kashmir, and to the state of Punjab, where Sikh militants are continuing their violent campaign for independence.

The two countries have twice gone to war over Kashmir, in 1948 and again in 1965. They both claim ownership of the former princely state. They fought a third war in 1971 over Bangladesh or what was then East Pakistan.

Several weeks ago, India reportedly handed Pakistan a list of "confidence-building" proposals.

The United States and the Soviet Union have urged New Delhi and Islamabad to resolve the latest dispute peacefully.

Pakistan proposed the talks between the foreign secretaries, the first formal high-level meeting between the two sides since the crisis erupted, in response to a set of "confidence-building measures" put forward by India last month.

The seven-point Indian package contains offers to exchange information about military exercises and increase contact between the military authorities of the two sides. Pakistan has said the measures offered nothing new.

Dubey said: "We are convinced that this is going to be in the interest of our peoples and is vital for the stability, peace, prosperity and security of the region."

PHILIPPINES

Aftershocks rock Philippines; toll 311

World-wide aid; explosives used to clear the roads

MANILA, July 18. (UPI): Strong aftershocks at a massive earthquake that killed at least 311 people rocked the northern Philippines today, sending rescue workers scrambling from crushed buildings where hundreds of people remained trapped, officials said.

An aftershock measuring 6.3 on the open-ended Richter scale struck at 6.15 am followed by another at 6.29 am that registered at 5.9, officials said.

More than 200 aftershocks have rocked the area since Monday's 7.7 temblor rumbled across the main Philippine island of Luzon, officials

said. The quake, centred in Cabanatuan, 60 miles (100 km) north of Manila, was the deadliest to strike the Philippines since August 1976, when an earthquake and tidal wave killed more than 3,000 people on the southern island of Mindanao.

The military civil defence said the quake killed 311 people and injured at least 682.

The quake leveled 1,150 houses and severely damaged at least 5,300 more, leaving about 60,500 people homeless, the Department of Social Welfare said.

Rescue efforts were concentrated on the devastated towns of Cabanatuan and Baguio, where about 400 people were reported trapped in a half-dozen luxury hotels and factories.

A spokesman for President Corazon Aquino, meanwhile, cited reports from workers who said they believed about 150 people had burned to death in a building housing six factories in the Baguio processing export zone.

Rescuers have been hampered by numerous landslides that closed the road from Manila to Baguio.

Workers used explosives today afternoon in a bid to clear the last of 24 landslides from a main road to Baguio, hoping to open the route to rescue vehicles by nightfall.

Television news reports showed the hotels in the mountain resort 120 miles (200 km) north of Manila crumbled like accordions.

About 60 people were trapped inside the Hyatt terrace and another 40 were stuck in the Nevada Hotel, officials said.

Rescuers have given up hope of finding more survivors in the rubble of the six-storey Christian College of the Philippines, where 49 students are thought to have been crushed to death, officials said. Workers pulled 179 people from the ruins yesterday.

"I'm afraid we won't be able to find any more people alive in (the school)," said Cabanatuan Mayor Honoro Perez. "There are no more indications there is still life in there."

Relief operations were briefly suspended following the strong aftershocks today. Workers fled to safer ground, fearing the heavily damaged buildings would crumble further.

Officials said 28 buildings had collapsed in Baguio, including four luxury hotels and 132 houses.

Power and communications remained out in the city. Rescue workers, who described the devastated area as a "war zone," said food, water and fuel were dangerously scarce.

Officials appealed for donations of blood, food, blankets and money to help victims in the stricken area.

More than \$575,000 in pledges of financial aid poured in from Japan, the United States, Australia and Korea, officials said. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of medicine and rescue equipment were also donated.

Aquino travelled to Dagupan in Pangasinan province and Baguio, where she set up a centre to co-ordinate relief efforts and asked students to leave the city to make room for rescue workers.

A 21-member US search and rescue team, supported by search dogs, arrived by helicopter in Baguio to join more than 100 workers searching for survivors in the piles of concrete and steel, a US military spokesman said.

Rescue teams from Japan and Europe joined workers in quake-stricken areas today, officials said. The foreign teams recently were in Iran to assist rescues in a quake of the same magnitude that killed an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 people.

The airport in Baguio was heavily damaged in the quake, forcing rescue planes to land in nearby La Union province and workers to be ferried by helicopters into the devastated city.

Rescuers in Baguio said most of the people they managed to pull from the piles of concrete and twisted metal were dead.

"Workers are extracting more dead than alive," a television reporter said.

The office of civil defence said 311 people were confirmed dead and 682 injured in Monday's quake, which registered 7.7 on the Richter scale. The figure included 82 people reported killed in Baguio.

Rescue workers reported that the lack of heavy equipment was hampering rescue operations more than 40 hours after the earthquake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale, toppled dozens of buildings and bridges in the northern Philippines.

Officials of a special industrial export processing zone in Baguio said up to 800 workers and some foreigners might still be trapped beneath the rubble of five factories. (Reuter)

Video footage show panic: Videotape footage taken seconds after a powerful earthquake shook the northern Philippines showed panic and destruction in a rural town near the quake's epicentre.

A group of amateur video photographers were making a documentary film of the town of Gabaldon, about 100 kms (60 miles) northwest of Manila when the earthquake struck at about 4:30 pm (0730 GMT) Monday.

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 19-20, 1990

US help shows bases dilemma

CABANATUAN CITY, Philippines, July 18. (AP): A convoy of trucks rolled into this city from a US military base a day after a devastating earthquake, and troops joined the search for survivors trapped in a collapsed school.

The US relief effort began one month before US and Philippine officials resume talks on extending the lease for six US bases in the country. The current lease expires in September 1991.

The United States flew in a 20-man disaster relief team to help with rescue efforts.

The search-and-rescue team was flown to Clark air base, north of Manila, from Andrews air force base in Maryland.

US helicopters and C-130 transport planes helped ferry in equipment and medical supplies to assist more than 600 people injured in Monday's quake.

US officials at Clark said 600 pints of blood were being sent to the northern city of Baguio and the town of Cabanatuan, both badly hit by the quake.

After Monday's earthquake, the Americans arrived promptly in Cabanatuan city, equipped with cranes, a full field hospital, plasma and trained engineers.

Expert

Before they arrived, the rescue effort was conducted by volunteers who had little more than jackhammers and muscles to move tons of debris.

The US embassy today said it was flying in an earthquake expert from Virginia, Dr Fred Kringold, as well as fiber optic gear to allow rescuers to see if anyone remains alive amid the rubble of collapsed buildings.

The Philippines often relies on US resources, especially during disasters. Military planes from Clark Air Base and the Cubi Point naval air station fly maritime search and rescue missions.

Air force meteorologists share information with the Philippine weather service on approaching typhoons. About 20 of them strike this island nation every year.

Offenses

"But critics say the Philippines' reliance on its former colonial power inhibits national development by fostering a 'colonial mentality,' where Filipinos look up to the Americans and down to themselves."

Turning to the Americans for help offends national pride.

"The government again had to send an SOS to Clark and Subic for the much needed equipment ... to prevent an even higher toll of casualties," wrote columnist Alvin Capino in the Daily Globe newspaper.

For many Philippine nationalists, the first step in achieving "genuine independence" and sovereignty is to close the bases, regardless of the price.

Faster

"Just like any child who will ultimately move out of his parents' home and live his own life, we Filipinos need to live our own lives too," said Socorro Diokno, chairman of the anti-bases coalition. "If in the process we stumble and fall, then we just have to get up and heal our bruises."

Other nations, including Japan, West Germany, Thailand and Australia, sent aid to the Philippines after the earthquake. But the presence of American forces in the country meant US help came faster.

When the quake struck the resort of Baguio, crumbling four luxury hotels, US troops from nearby camp John Hay joined in the rescue within hours. US aircraft flew medical supplies to the isolated mountain city hours after the tremor.

First

"The fact remains that the Americans were the first to arrive ... and that they spelled the difference between life and death for the victims," wrote commentator Luis Beltran in the Manila Standard.

In Cabanatuan city, 100 kms (60 miles) north of Manila, the Americans arrived with cranes, medical personnel, a field hospital and trained engineers.

Beforehand, rescue operations were largely in the bands of untrained volunteers. No one appeared in charge.

When volunteers tried to drill into the massive concrete slabs of debris, survivors would cry out that the effort was only shifting the rubble onto them.

Events of the past few days seem to support the view that Filipinos will remain psychologically dependent on the United States as long as the bases stay.

"The really ironic thing is when (the quake struck) ... the first people the radio stations thought of were the Americans with their helicopters," Beltran said.



Philippine military cadets remove the first survivor from the Nevada Hotel in Baguio City on Tuesday. Twenty people are still trapped inside the collapsed hotel after an earthquake, many still alive. (Reuter wirephoto)

Scene

Search abandoned

No voices from any survivor

CABANATUAN, Philippines, July 18. (Agencies): Philippine and US rescue teams on Wednesday began lifting concrete slabs in order to remove the bodies of dozens of children crushed to death in a quake-shattered school.

A chemical preservative was poured on one body to quell the stench wafting along the narrow street in front of the devastated school in Cabanatuan city, 90 km (55 miles) north of Manila.

Filipino and American rescue workers wore surgical masks or bandkerchiefs tied around their faces to abate the smell of death coming from bodies still pinned under mounds of concrete slabs piled on top of one another like a flattened accordion.

Inert legs, arms and torsos caked in dried blood still protruded from the wrecked six-storey school building which collapsed in a pile of rubble when the earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale struck on Monday.

Cranes were moved up to the pile of rubble which used to house the Christian College of the Philippines and rescuers scrambled clear as the first concrete slab was lifted.

"They'll pick the whole thing up and see what's underneath so they can get the bodies out," said US Marine Lance Corporal Paul Vanek, 20, from Houston, Texas.

He is a member of a US Marine combat engineering team from Okinawa, Japan, which was called in to help the rescue operation. More than 50 Americans were sent to help rescue workers in digging out survivors from the shattered school.

Vanek said his team may move to the resort city of Baguio, hardest hit by the tremor, because there is

little hope of finding any more survivors in the wrecked school.

"I think they've given up hope that people are still alive," he said.

Rescuers had abandoned their search for dozens of children trapped in the school, saying they believed they were all dead.

"We are lifting the slate because we have to retrieve all the dead bodies now," said Cabanatuan city police chief Lieutenant-Colonel Rogcio de Jaya.

US and Philippine military engineers prepared to bulldoze the mountain of rubble in which the children — pleading for help and calling out to God — had been entombed for two nights.

"We have not heard voices from any survivors since last night. I think they have all gone to sleep," said Maeve Liwag, a member of the family that owns the school.

"We cannot bear or find any more survivors. We don't think there's anyone else alive in the building," medical volunteer Domingo Dimacale said.

At least 45 children were crushed to death when the quake toppled the 25-year-old building on Monday. Rescuers using only chisels, hammers and drills pulled out more than 100 others alive, many with bloodied faces and broken arms and legs.

The office of civil defence said about 150 others were still trapped in the rubble as of Tuesday. But Cabanatuan Mayor Honoro Perez said he did not believe there would be more than 50.

"Do not die, you will live," Bernardo Malaluan, 15, yelled to a moaning friend beneath the ruins of the six-storey Christian College of the Philippines.



A US Navy serviceman brings a cutting torch to another navy rescue worker attempting to remove an earthquake victim from the Philippine Christian College yesterday. About 40 people are still believed trapped inside the college, which was hit by an earthquake on July 16. (Reuter wirephoto)

Sidelights

Queue for copters: Thousands of anxious survivors of a powerful earthquake scrambled to get onto US and Philippine military helicopters on Wednesday in an effort to escape the devastated northern city of Baguio.

"Tell my sister in Manila I'm okay," shouted Australian tourist Anna Conte as an overcrowded helicopter lifted off from the buckled runway, ruined when an earthquake rocked the north Philippines three days ago.

Cut off from the capital some 200 km (120 miles) to the south, Anna is one of the thousands of survivors of Monday's quake stuck in the north with no water, no shelter, little food and a long wait to get out.

Baguio bore the brunt of Monday's earthquake, which, at 7.7 on the Richter scale, was the worst to hit the Philippines for 14 years.

About 600 people died in the north so far. Almost half died in Baguio, most of them smothered but some burned to death as they lay helpless in the rubble of the factory where they worked.

"We have only what we stand up in," said Al Salim Marzoq Hamed of Saudi Arabia who escaped down knotted sheets from the crumbling Hyatt Hotel clad only in his underwear and a pair of leather slippers.

Local villagers gave Hamed and his friend Al Kabour Abdulla trousers and sweaters, barely enough to keep them warm in the highland resort where temperatures can drop to 45 degrees Fahrenheit (17 degrees Celsius) at night.

Many of the strong at the damaged airport were local people, fearing aftershocks and fleeing the wreckage of their homes to relatives in other parts of the country.

Other townspeople continued to help soldiers sift patiently through the shattered concrete of about 28 large buildings badly damaged in the quake in search of survivors.

About 60 victims are believed still trapped under the Hyatt, 40 at the Nevada Hotel and another 90 in smaller hotels dotted around the town, government spokesman Thomas Gomez told reporters.

Two sisters from just outside Baguio struggled to carry an icon of the Virgin Mary, almost half their size, onto the helicopters.

Teenagers pleaded to be allowed to take their "hoochies," or large portable stereos, onboard the overcrowded chopper.

"The Canadian embassy told us it would be two, three days until they can do anything, anything at all," said Imelda Agbulo, 47, holidaying in Baguio with her sister and Canadian brother-in-law when the quake struck.

Near her son

A Hungarian woman grieves near her son, injured when the Hyatt hotel collapsed. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hundreds still trapped: Hundreds of workers and foreign managers and technicians remain trapped beneath the rubble of five factories in the northern city of Baguio. Industry Department officials said on Wednesday.

Rescue workers reported that the lack of heavy equipment was hampering rescue operations more than 40 hours after the earthquake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale, toppled dozens of buildings and bridges in the northern Philippines.

Officials of a special industrial export processing zone in Baguio said up to 800 workers and some foreigners might still be trapped beneath the rubble of five factories. (Reuter)

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Study shows a decrease in earthquakes around the world

WASHINGTON, July 18. (Kuna): The surface of the Earth is not suddenly crumbling underfoot with repeated earthquakes, it just seems that way, according to American geologists.

The earthquake that rocked the Philippines on Monday was the latest in a string of devastating quakes in the last two years ranging from Armenia to San Francisco to Iran.

But long-term statistics do not show big quakes happening more often, according to these experts.

"I do not see an increase in earthquakes around the world," said Waverly Person, chief of the earthquake information service for the US Geological Survey in a statement to the foreign press.

According to his office's records, which provide trustworthy information going back to 1900, there have been an average of 18 major earthquakes around the world every year. But in the last decade that average has actually fallen to 11.

This year, however, has seen more

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Egypt begins unravelling 30 years of socialism

CAIRO, July 18, (Reuter): Egypt is testing the murky waters of privatisation but has not yet decided whether it is safe to take the plunge.

First it was a hotel, then some dairies. Now hundreds of small firms set up by the government in the late 1970s and 1980s are headed for the auction block.

But the fate of the huge industrial complex established by the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser in the 1960s — the emotional heart of one of

the Third World's largest public sectors — has yet to be decided.

"I think we are on the verge of major economic change," said one Egyptian economist. "But there are some people still making it difficult for ideological reasons."

Advocates believe privatisation will tap the resources of investors and millions of Egyptians working abroad to inject some vigor into Egypt's stagnating economy.

As a cautious first step the government has announced it will reduce its share in some 245 joint ventures set up with the private sector in the last 15 years.

Capital would be increased by issuing new shares to Egyptian and foreign investors and ploughing proceeds back into the firm.

In May the government declared it would sell around 2,000 small companies owned by local governorates. The

government believes the two sets of sales could bring it as much as \$1 billion (\$400 million) a year.

The governorate projects, from bee hives and chicken farms to taxi firms and bakeries, are to be sold in stages over two years to avoid saturating the market, perhaps by public auction.

"Unfortunately we have forgotten the purpose for which these projects were formed," Prime Minister Atef Sedki said in a recent interview in Al

Mussawar magazine.

"It would have been better to leave them to the citizen because he is the most able to measure their worth and take care of them," he said.

Others say the government is moving too slowly and that many of the projects are barely worth the land they are sitting on.

"If they find buyers for many of these things I would be surprised," said Khaled Sherif, an Egyptian economist

at the American University of Cairo.

Sherif and other economists would prefer to see the government attack head-on the nearly 400 companies that were formed in the socialist heyday of the 1960s and early 1970s.

The government has committed itself to selling at least some of the firms, but declared it would not let go of big projects like the aluminium plant at Naga Hamadi, steel mills and textile plants.

Consumer prices jump in States

WASHINGTON, July 18, (AP): US consumer prices, fuelled by sharp increases in food and gasoline costs, shot up 0.5 per cent in June, more than double the rate of the past two months, the government said today.

The unexpectedly steep rise in the Labour Department's consumer price index followed moderate 0.2 per cent increases for both April and May.

Through the first six months of the year, consumer prices have been rising at an annual rate of 5.9 per cent, well above the 4.6 per cent for all of 1989.

The sharp rise in consumer inflation in June was sure to worry analysts, who had been predicting a more modest rise of 0.3 per cent.

Inflation

Analysts had expected inflation to continue to moderate as prices recovered from the first of the year, when prices soared following a cold snap sent the costs of fruits, vegetables and energy skyward.

In June, grocery store food prices, which had fallen in each of the past two months, rose 1 per cent in June as prices went up for all of the major food categories, the Labour Department said.

There was a sharp turnaround in the price of fruits and vegetables, which rose 1.5 per cent after falling 2.4 per cent in May.

Food

Fresh fruit prices rose 2.2 per cent after seasonal adjustment, while fresh vegetables, which had increased 29.2 per cent in the first two months of the year and then fallen 23.6 per cent in the next three months, advanced 1.4 per cent in June, the report said.

Pork prices, up 4.0 per cent in June, have risen sharply over the past nine months, climbing at an annual rate of 26.2 per cent during that period. Poultry prices were up 1.3 per cent while dairy prices, after dropping the past three months, rose 0.2 per cent in June.

Food overall

Food overall was up 0.7 per cent.

Gasoline prices, which generally increase during the driving season of the summer months, jumped 2.5 per cent last month after falling 1.6 per cent in May.

Energy

Energy costs overall were up 0.6 per cent. The price of natural gas shot up 2.7 per cent, but fuel oil dropped 4.2 per cent and electricity fell 1.6 per cent.

Prices for items outside the volatile food and energy sectors jumped 0.4 per cent in June. Analysts consider this so-called "core" rate a better indicator of underlying inflation pressures in the economy.

New car prices edged down 0.2 per cent, the fifth straight decline in the face of sluggish sales.

Clothing

Clothing costs, which jumped sharply earlier in the year when a warm February got spring sales off at an early start, fell 0.1 per cent last month.

The price of men's and women's clothing both fell, 0.2 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively, but the cost of clothing for infants and toddlers climbed 0.5 percent. The fall in clothing costs had been expected as merchants marked down summer sale clothing.

Medical care costs soared 0.7 per cent in June for the fifth straight month, pushing those costs 9.0 per cent higher than a year ago.

The various changes put the index for all consumer prices at 129.9 in June. That means a hypothetical selection of goods and services costing \$100 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$129.90 last month, up from the \$124.10 a year ago.

Housing

Housing construction fell in June for the fifth consecutive month, pushing the level of building activity to its lowest point since the last recession.

The Commerce Department reported a drop of 2.3 per cent in housing starts last month, with new homes and apartments being built at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.18 million units.

The June decline followed decreases of 0.9 per cent in May, 6.9 per cent in April, 12.2 per cent in March and 5.1 per cent in February.

It marked the first time housing construction has fallen for five months in a row since a string of declines from July through November in 1981. It pushed the level of building activity to its lowest point since October 1982.

Since interest-sensitive sectors such as housing normally turn down in advance of a general slump in the economy, the prolonged weakness in housing this year has heightened speculation about a possible recession.



Doll with a difference

Traditional Russian matryoshka dolls with a difference. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev (left) holds a placard saying first president and four of his predecessors as Communist Party leaders Leonid Brezhnev (2nd left), Nikita

Khrushchev (3rd) Josef Stalin (fourth) and Vladimir Lenin (right). The dolls available at street vendors in Moscow's famous Arbat street, are a hot commodity among Western tourists. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Fed will act to arrest decline'

WASHINGTON, July 18, (AP): Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan sent a strong signal today that the US central bank will act decisively to keep the country out of a recession by lowering interest rates once policymakers agree on a deficit reduction package.

In his strongest comments to date, Greenspan sought to reassure members of Congress that the Fed will do its part in any effort to significantly attack the huge federal budget deficit.

Many Republican critics of tax increases have charged that President George Bush's reversal on the tax question threatens to push the country into a recession by increasing the tax burden at a time when the economy is already growing at a sluggish rate.

However, Greenspan delivering the Fed's mid-year economic report today, said that "a major cut in the budget is unquestionably the right thing to do."

While Greenspan said that the specific details of any Fed response to a deficit-reduction package would depend on the performance of the economy at the time, he left no doubt that the central bank would move to offset the adverse effects on growth from government spending cuts and tax increases by lowering interest rates.

"Everything is subordinate to reaching that objective. So I think that in the coming conference, there is already a kind of converging view that to reach the minimum price, the agreement on quotas that we reached in November 1989 should be sustained," he said.

Asked to comment on speculation regarding a possible elimination of the production quota system, Subroto said this certainly was not under consideration for the time being.

However, the Opec secretary-general said he did not know if the quota system should be held for another five years.

The government believes industries perform better in a competitive environment, where they must answer to shareholders.

Other countries undergoing major privatisation programmes include Hungary, Portugal and Argentina.

The council will act as a clearing house for overseas requests for help, directing applicants to bankers, lawyers and other experts in privatisation.

Fraser and Harrods owners charge human rights violations

much evidence being based on hearsay which would be inadmissible in a court of law.

"Our action is aimed at not only exposing the grave injustice done in our particular case but also at improving the British system of government inspection for the benefit of others," said Mohamed Al Fayeed, the chairman of the House of Fraser group.

They said no remedy is available under British law, and charged that the DTI report was published amid great publicity, despite

Business News Briefs

Foreign acquisitions

French firms expanding

BRUSSELS, Belgium, July 18, (AP): French state-owned industries have embarked on a programme of aggressive expansion throughout Europe, according to a new report released yesterday.

In 1989 there were 40 French state acquisitions of European targets, valued at 2.67 billion European Currency Units (\$3.34 billion), according to European Deal review, published by the US consultancy group Translink.

This amounted to 28 per cent of the total value of all French acquisitions in Europe, the periodical said.

"France is in effect nationalising Europe," commented Mark Dixon, the editor of the review.

In the first quarter of 1990 alone the figure was 2.52 billion Ecu (\$13.5 billion), or 58 per cent of all French acquisition in Europe. The figure was swollen by car maker Renault's reciprocal stakes in Volvo.

Some countries are considering taking action to protect their industries against the state-backed takeover binge. Britain warned in March that it may have to take special measures against French state-backed takeovers.

Little activity on KD market: Little activity was seen on the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market yesterday, dealers said.

Some banks reported no business at all in either short dates or fixed dates, and rates were basically unchanged. It was expected that short dates might ease in the next few days as government salaries began to work their way into the system, said one dealer.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.28985/95 to the dollar. (Reuter)

Riyal rates quiet: The Saudi riyal interbank deposit market was quiet yesterday, as operators covered positions ahead of the weekend, dealers said.

The market was fairly cautious due to general expectations that rates might ease further in the coming weeks, said one dealer. Little activity was seen in either short dates or fixed dates, and rates remained largely unchanged, he added.

Sudan to lay off workers

Budget plan to save \$130m

KHARTOUM, July 18, (Kuna): The military government of General Omer Al Bashir has decided to drop 10 per cent of the half million work power of the public sector within one month in order to save about 600,000,000 Sudanese pounds (\$130 million) a year, Finance and Economic Planning Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi said.

The minister said the 500,000 public sector employees are drawing six billion Sudanese pounds a year (\$1.3 billion) and that the 1990/91 budget, approved last month, stipulated that 50,000 jobs out of the 500,000 public sector jobs be dispensed with their services.

Addressing a meeting of experts from his ministry, the Administrative Reform Centre and the Cabinet Affairs Ministry, the minister said the reduction of the public sector employees will not include those at the ministries of health and education and the security organs.

He said the public sector corporations will have to give up 25 per cent of their manpower, the local government 15 per cent and the central government seven per cent within a maximum period of one month.

The dismissal of the public sector employees will include all levels from the highest to the lowest, the minister pointed out, adding plans to encourage

Fraser and Harrods owners charge human rights violations

LONDON, July 18, (UPI): The Egyptian Al Fayeed brothers, who own the House of Fraser and Harrods department store, will ask the European Commission of Human Rights to judge whether their reputation was damaged by the Trade and Industry Department inquiry, officials said today.

House of Fraser officials said the Al Fayeed wanted a neutral assessment on a DTI investigation in March which found the brothers had persistently lied about their origins, business standing and wealth during their con-

ference.

In a press communiqué, the three brothers said they would soon make an application to the European human rights court in Strasbourg to obtain "effective remedies by international accepted standards" on what they called the unfairness of the DTI inspectorate system.

"I do not believe that any other civilised country in the world would sanction such a system," he said. "It is quite simply an affront to justice."

US pressuring EEC on subsidy

'Very little' change so far

WASHINGTON, July 18. (UPI): The United States is putting further pressure on the European Economic Community to negotiate the elimination of export subsidies from world trade, administration farm officials said yesterday.

One of the weapons in the US trade arsenal is the five-year-old Export Enhancement Programme, which provides "bonuses" or subsidies to make US commodities cheaper for selected foreign buyers.

But Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said the US subsidy programme is modest compared with the \$10 billion annually spent by the 12-nation European trade bloc on farm export subsidies.

Further, he said, the House Appropriations Committee recently cut the subsidies under EEP to \$500 million from the \$900 million the administration had requested.

Draft treaty on services issued

New rules set out

GENEVA, July 18. (UPI): A senior world trade negotiator yesterday circulated a draft treaty setting out new rules to liberalise global commerce in services, worth more than \$600 billion a year.

The draft provides for the establishment of a general agreement on trade in services, similar to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Gatt, that has governed trade in goods for more than 40 years.

But the text by Services Negotiating Group chairman Felipe Jaramillo fails to define what services will be covered, reflecting the deadlock between the United States and other countries involved in the talks.

Negotiators are meant to agree on an outline text by the end of this month to enable a services accord to be finalized when the four-year round of Uruguay trade talks concludes in December. The ambitious negotiations are also due to draw up new rules in 14 other areas of world trade, such as agriculture and textiles.

Industrialized countries have led the way in pressing for a new agreement to open markets to services such as tourism, transportation and telecommunications. The rapidly growing sector now accounts for an average 60 per cent of employment and Gross Domestic Product in the developed world, according to estimates from the Geneva-based Gatt secretariat.

Third World countries were initially worried that, denied protection, their infant service

industries would be overwhelmed by competition from industrialized countries.

However, the text tabled by Jaramillo, a Colombian national, seeks to ease these concerns by stating that the "process of liberalisation shall take place with due respect to... the level of development in individual parties."

The 25 articles of the draft treaty set out the general obligations of signatories, as well as provisions for progressive liberalisation, specific commitments on market access, and institutional questions like dispute settlement.

The text seeks to reconcile conflicting interests. However, the article titled coverage is left blank.

Trade sources say that most countries, including the 12 members of the European Community, have argued that the treaty should cover all services.

Under this universal approach special needs of individual sectors could be tackled through more detailed annexes not agreement on a broad framework has been reached.

The United States, by contrast, wants coverage of the general treaty to be narrower. In particular US negotiators have pressed for a format that would allow financial services, aviation and shipping to be excluded.

Washington, while pressing for greater overall liberalisation, is reportedly anxious to protect existing bilateral deals which benefit the US aviation and maritime industry.

US May trade deficit widens

WASHINGTON, July 18. (AP): The US foreign trade deficit widened to \$7.73 billion in May as a big jump in imports of oil and foreign cars offset the second-highest level of exports on record, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

While the May deficit was 5.8 per cent higher than a revised April trade gap of \$7.31 billion, most economists discounted the small worsening of the deficit.

They pointed out that US export sales remained strong during the month and they predicted this trend would continue as economic growth overseas helps to prop up a sluggish American market.

"Thank goodness for trade. It remains the brightest spot in the economy," said Allen Sinai, chief economist of the Boston Co. Financial firm. "The small increase in the May deficit is not of concern because we believe that strong growth overseas will keep US exports rising."

Many analysts believe export sales are the only thing keeping the country out of a recession. In the first three months of the year, fully half of total economic growth was supplied by the rise in overseas sales.

In a separate report yesterday, the Federal Reserve said that industrial output rose by 0.4 per cent in June, helping to push the operating rate at the nation's factories, mines and utilities to 83.5 per cent of capacity, the highest

Score card

WASHINGTON, July 18. (UPI):	
The United States' merchandise trade deficit and surpluses, in millions of dollars not adjusted for seasonal factors, by selected countries and country groups, as reported yesterday by the US Commerce Department.	
Country	May
Canada	-563.9
W. Europe	811.6
E. Community	722.3
Britain	299.2
W. Germany	-538.2
France	36.0
Italy	-160.6
Japan	-2,965.8
Hong Kong	6.7
Taiwan	-94.4
S. Korea	-389.3
Egypt	150.4
OPEC	-1,711.4
Venezuela	-40.6
Indonesia	-143.3
S. Arabia	-345.9
	-1,393.0
	-320.0
	-74.6
	-191.7

level this year.

While much of the June increase reflected a spurt in auto production in advance of a possible strike this fall and a heat wave which boosted utility demand, analysts said that a growing portion of US manufacturing output is being shipped to overseas markets.

The Bush administration, which is counting on strong foreign demand to continue propping up the economy, reacted with pleasure to the May trade report.

Court orders 'Crazy' Eddie to turn over \$73 million

NEWARK, New Jersey, July 17. (AP): A federal judge yesterday ordered Eddie Antar to turn over \$73 million he made touting "insane" prices at his Crazy Eddie Electronics empire.

Federal officials say the elusive fugitive, who has been missing since he appeared in court Feb. 13, made the money through fraudulent record keeping an insider trading at the now defunct Crazy Eddie Inc.

His assets in the United States have been frozen, but a deposit of about \$52 million had

been made in an Israeli bank account, said Richard Simpson, an attorney for the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Simpson said he could not estimate how much in US assets have been frozen and said the SEC is working through diplomatic channels to freeze funds in Israel. He added that the SEC does not know how much money, if any, may be in the Israeli bank account because the money may have been transferred.

"Eddie Antar's whereabouts are presently unknown, but I think there's a 90 per cent

chance that they will become known at some point," Simpson said. "At that time we're going to make him pay \$73 million."

Antar's attorney, Justin N. Feldman of New York, said he could not comment because he was not in court when the judgment against his client was issued.

Antar built a single outlet in New York to a chain with 43 stores in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He became widely known in the region for his television and radio commercials touting "insane" prices.

ACC to set up bank

Centre to promote trade

AMMAN, July 18. (Reuters): The four member nations of the Arab Co-operation Council, seeking to mesh their economies and monetary policies, decided today to set up a joint bank.

Officials attending the closed-door meetings of the ACC central bank—grouping Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt—told Reuters the gathering also decided to establish a centre to clear trade-related payments within the bloc.

They said the proposed joint bank would coordinate the financing of exports within the group and with other countries. Details of capital and the level of private and public sector investment in the bank have still to be agreed.

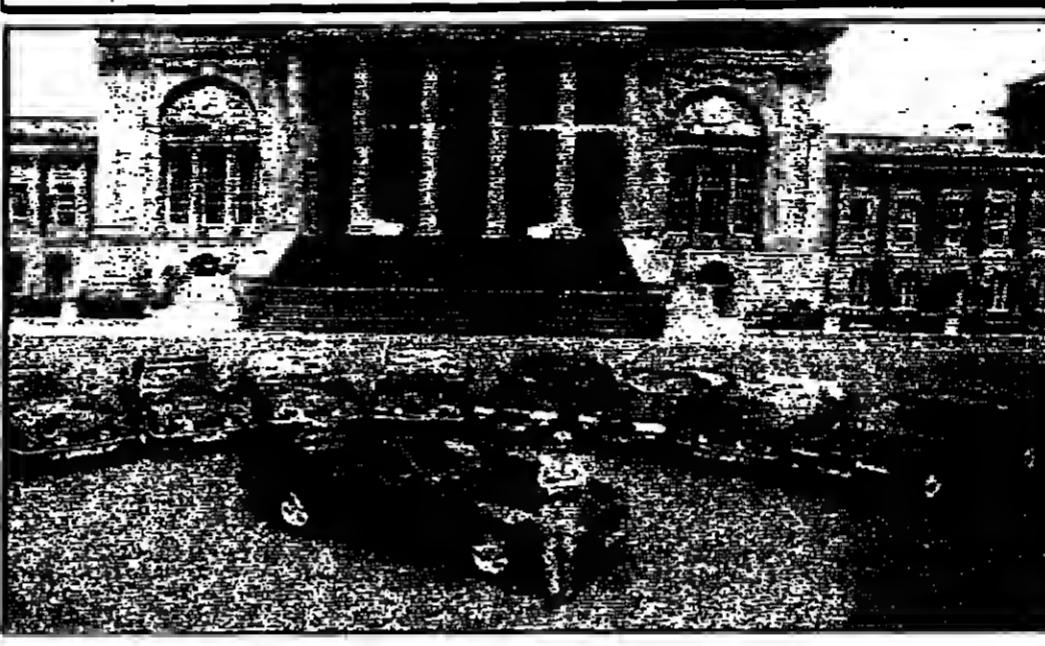
The governor's gathering was the first since the formation of the ACC in February 1989. ACC trade ministers were due to open their

meeting in Amman later today, after the bank talks wound up, to discuss speeding up trade exchanges.

The four nations have similar foreign policy views but disparate economies. All have relied heavily on external aid in recent years and are burdened by debt.

The bloc links four nations with a total of more than 80 million people, a combined gross national product of more than \$100 billion, exports of about \$15 billion and imports of about \$42 billion.

Trade ministers were expected to put the final touches to a barter trade agreement, proposed at \$120 million this year. \$35 million each for Jordan, Iraq and Egypt and \$15 million for Yemen.



Aston Martins collection

Michael Haynes, marketing director of Aston Martin, poses with nine brand new Aston Martins from each production over the past 21 years on Tuesday in Buckingham. The cars, owned by an anonymous owner, are to be sold as a collection for over £7.5 million, (\$13.6 million)

Markets in US not ready to go global

Citicorp reports

Profit declines

NEW YORK, July 18. (AP): Citicorp, said yesterday its second-quarter profit tumbled 37 per cent, reflecting problems the nation's largest banking company is having with real estate loans and the failure of Argentina and Brazil to pay loan interest.

The parent of the nation's biggest bank, Citibank, said it earned \$24 million, or 64 cents a share, for the three months ended June 30, compared \$95 million, or \$1.11 a share, a year earlier.

The company said its earnings were up 28 per cent from consumer banking activities and 44 per cent from international banking and finance activities.

But it said weakness in the real estate market, especially in the United States, hurt its results.

Citicorp said its credit loss provision was \$473 million for the quarter, up \$144 million from a year earlier. Its commercial loan loss reserve was boosted by \$5.8 million, bringing its reserve to \$744 million.

"The continuing uncertain real estate environment may cause write-offs to continue at a relatively high levels until we see some stabilisation in values," the company said in a statement.

Efforts to lower costs for borrowers cited for decline

NEW YORK, July 18. (AP): The World Bank said yesterday that efforts to lower costs for Third World borrowers and increased provisions for problem loans resulted in a 5 per cent drop in its fiscal 1990 net income over a year ago.

The bank, which is owned by roughly 150 countries and is the largest lender to the developing world, said its profit totalled \$1.04 billion for the year ended June 30, compared with earnings of \$1.09 billion in 1989.

The 1990 figures include a \$357 million provision set aside to cover future loan losses and a \$106 million charge for health and insurance benefits to retired staff.

Income was further reduced by about \$150 million as a result of the World Bank's decision to lower the loan commitment fees to borrowers for a second con-

secutive year, the bank said.

In discussing the profit decline, Ernest Stern, senior vice-president for finance, told a news conference, "The World Bank does not seek to maximise income. Our first priority... is to begin to reduce costs to our borrowers."

"Lower net income figures... will not reflect a lower income-generated capacity, but a discretionary decision not to retain

income which is not needed to maintain our very strong financial position, particularly at a time when many of our borrowers face serious cash flow problems."

The bank said it met its target 11 per cent reserves-to-loan ratio during the 1990 fiscal year. The reserves act as a buffer against unforeseeable events, such as volatility in foreign exchange or higher interest rates.

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VIDEO CORNER

Cool but stylish adaptation

By Shaun Seekins

THE Handmaid's Tale is Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood's most intellectual work to date, it seems appropriate that West German director Volker Schlöndorff should come up with a cold and clinical adaptation, accurately capturing the mood of the original.

It is the tail end of the 20th Century, disease and chemical pollution have made most women infertile, and the extreme right wing government which runs the country of Gilead (situated where the US is now) have come up with a simple way to perpetuate the human race. Young women who can still bear children — known as "handmaids" — are captured and placed in concentration camps, where they are brainwashed to serve as nothing but dispassionate baby-makers. If they refuse they are banished to clean up toxic waste for the remainder of their lives.

When she is deemed worthy, after a spell of training with the fanatical Aunt Lydia (Victoria Tennant), the handmaid is turned over to a wealthy upper-class couple, who will use the powerless woman as a surrogate mother, all the while treating her as a servant.

The Commander (Robert Duvall) is a leading figure in the government responsible for security, he is married to the barren Serena

Joy (Faye Dunaway). Kate (Natasha Richardson) is captured and her husband killed during an attempt to escape across the border, she then finds herself in their service and has to undergo humiliation as they demand a baby from her. Whether this is from unrequited mother love on the part of Serena or because babies have become the ultimate status symbol is not clear.

Despite her apparently demure compliant ways, Kate satisfies the forbidden desires of the Commander and when his attempts to impregnate her fail, decides to double her chances by taking his chauffeur as a lover. Because the penalty for failing to produce a baby is being sent to the toxic waste disposal unit, she seems to have few alternatives. Gradually, she becomes involved with a group of rebels in a series of secret relationships that can only end in disaster.

The film advances at a slow thought provoking pace which seems to heighten the effects on the viewer of watching a society that has lost its soul. Only an abrupt conclusion spoils the effect as we are left with some loose ends.

Burndown plays upon our fears of nuclear contamination, when the nuclear power plant in the town of Thorpeville is prematurely shut down. The inhabitants find that they are living in what has become a virtual ghost

town. Then to compound the misery a series of bizarre, frenzied murders occur which strike terror into the whole community. But the local chief of police's attempts to crack the mystery are dogged by the obstructive caretaker of the nuclear plant and a beautiful reporter who do just about anything to get a story. The whole cover-up is destroyed when the third victim is found to be contaminated and then the questions need to be answered ... fast.

Murder Run is based on the true story of Richie Start and Laura Ferguson, two young delinquents who in just a few days in 1958 killed seven people. After a police hunt he is finally captured and ends his days in the electric chair.

Bloodfist is for kickboxing fans, Jake (Don Wilson) returns to the ring when his brother dies mysteriously fighting in the Tai Ching — the world's toughest kickboxing match. To find the killer, Jake must enter the Tai-Ching and infiltrate the dangerous underworld of Manila kickboxing.

Golf is featured again this week in 1980's *Ten Years of the British Open*, with Ballesteros, Watson, Faldo and Lyle among the golfing greats who appear on this cassette.

The above movies are by courtesy of VFI, Fintas/Farwaniya; Video Nauq, Salhiya Complex, Video Club, Salmya.

Natasha Richardson and Aidan Quinn in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Back and forth

By Jack E. Wilkinson

■ *Back to the Future Part II*: Here we go back — and forth — again. Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) and his transcendent tutor Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd) race ahead in their warped-out Delorean to 2015, then speed back to 1955 in the second segment of this popular time-tripping trilogy. Their mission is to save the world, the McFly heritage and anything else that crops up, including aborting the devious deeds of Biff (Thomas Wilson), that menace for all seasons, moving so quickly from one time frame to another they often cross paths with themselves. The enigmatically sometimes mind-boggling yarn is, like most sequels, rather lame alongside the 1985 original, to which it repeatedly refers. (If you missed that you will miss much of the meaning of what goes on here.) But, for followers of the eyeblink doings of Marty and Doc, the adventure continues with appetites presumably whetted for still more by a closing preview of *Future III*, opening theatrically as *Future II* hits the home market. (1989. 105 minutes. MCA-Universal Home Video. Rated PG-13.)

■ *Crimes and Misdemeanors*: Without missing a beat, Woody Allen deftly jumps from drama to comedy and back again in his latest tone on New York life, touching on just about every aspect (success and failure, good and evil, truth and delusion). Like much of Allen's work, the film's strongest point is its splendid ensemble cast as it deals with two very different characters. First, there's a widely respected eye doctor and family man (Martin Landau) who must deal severely with a personal threat, namely a raffled mistress (Anjelica Huston) who insists he dump his wife. Then, there's the hapless loser (Allen, of course), a down-and-out bum who reluctantly agrees to do a documentary on his wife's famous, egotistical brother (Alan Alda), a venture that ends with both going after the same woman (Mia Farrow), and you can guess who wins. (1989. 104 minutes. Orion Home Video. Rated PG-13.)

■ *The Fabulous Baker Boys*: In this stylish, blusy drama about two brothers trying to breathe new life into a dying nightclub lounge act, it's not hard to tell who's the fabulous one. And, it's not a Baker boy. Michelle Pfeiffer, snugly clad in red and slithering across a piano top, smokily singing about *Making Whoopee*, steals the show, natch. Her sexy, tough-minded torch singer Susie Diamond is nearly as easy to listen to as to watch. Nearly. Still, much of the film's success banks on the strong interactive performances of Jeff and Beau Bridges, brothers playing brothers, believable as they run the gamut of sibling emotions. Jack and Frank Baker hire Susie to jazz up their sagging twin-piano act which she does with great success, but as expected, it's an intrusion that at first splices, then splices a partnership. They do make pretty good music together, though the film's tempo tends to drag at times. (1989. 116 minutes. Ivie. Rated R.)

■ *Worth Winning*: Mark Harmon stars as an amorous TV weatherman in this spring-fling comedy, sunny and pleasant and light as air. Harmon plays Taylor Worth, Philadelphia's most eligible bachelor who, on a wager, gets engaged to three women at once. You can bet he falls for one of them. Co-starring Lesley Anne Warren, Madeleine Stowe and Maria Holowec. (1989. 103 minutes. CBS/Fox Video. Rated PG-13.)

■ *Triumph of the Spirit*: A grim but engrossing film about the holocaust and a unique method of survival. Wilem Dafoe plays Salamo Aroush, a Greek middleweight boxing champion imprisoned by the Nazis at the notorious Auschwitz concentration camp. Salamo is forced to fight other prisoners for the entertainment of SS officers and must win to survive — the loser usually is executed. Dafoe's acting shines through gloomy surroundings. Robert Loggia and Edward James Olmos co-star. (1989. 120 minutes. RCA/Columbia Home Video. Rated R.)



Students honoured

The Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Ahmed Al Hmoud Al Sabah on Monday held a ceremony to honour outstanding high school students in both the science and art fields. It was attended by a number of Ministry of Education officials, and students and their families. Above: Sheikh Ahmed handing over a prize to one of the students. (right) Sheikh Ahmed with officials of the Farwaniya educational sector



Meridien courses

Hotel Meridien Kuwait is always striving to improve the standard of their service. Better service comes from better trained staff, so the Meridien sponsors their staff for a variety of courses. Recently, thirty members of the staff successfully completed courses of the educational Institute of the American Hotel and Motel Association. Not only did all of those who took the courses pass them, but also four passed with honours. Above: Meridien staff who recently passed AHMA courses are shown with their general manager and the department heads.



Sheikh Salem welcomed

Minister of Interior, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah was welcomed by the general manager and public manager of Kuwait International Hotel. A function was organised on Monday, by the Farwaniya and Capital governorate at the hotel.

WHAT'S ON

Social

Approb 'Who's Who' directory

THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is planning to publish a "Who's Who" directory of prominent Pakistani professionals and businessmen resident in Kuwait by January 1991. The directory aims at providing information about all Pakistanis proficient and distinguished in their professions and businesses.

Data forms are available free of cost from Approb, executive board members and other locations.

For further details contact Approb on Tel. No. 2425315, Fax 5323751, P.O. Box 2351, Salmya, 22024 Salmya, Kuwait.

A copy of the directory will be given free of charge to all individuals whose names will appear in the directory.

Sur Sangeet

July 19: A musical evening will be presented by Sur Sangeet group to say farewell to outgoing Indian Second Secretary S.M. Mathur. Singers participating in the show include Valencia, Rosebud, Laxmi, Charlie, Shahnaz Karim.

Kapilkul awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring, book-keeping, basic accounts and basic computer courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Mauyag Mohammad Tamano

will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner, KD 3 per person. Proceeds will go towards the school fund.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarambang. Tele: 4839009, 4839889, 4843447.

LIL: July 30: 10 am to 12 noon. LIL will hold a newcomer's coffee morning on Monday at the Sheraton Hotel. Mezzanine floor. Ladies new to LIL or Kuwait are welcome. For details contact Janet 2434941.

Summertime '90

Aug 2: United Goans Centre will hold Summerbelles '90 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent, Top Ranks and Hurricane Alley in attendance. For reservations call Tnny 2612024; Cyril 253930; Joe 5655140.

Rock and Reggae

July 22: 'Let's Rock and Reggae', a concert with Steve Michael and the Afro Beat, will be held from 9pm at the Holiday Inn Hotel's Grand Ballroom. Vocalist Sheryl Pereira will make a special appearance as a soloist and also join Steve in some duets. Tina Mathews will perform a Reggae dance routine. Reservations open. Tel: 2405648; 2476660; 5714340; 5721030.

Tickets also available from special desk in Holiday Inn lobby. The concert is being organised and presented by

Phil Danielle. Early bookings are advised due to limited seating.

Children's cinema

July 18 (6 pm); July 19 (10.30 am): Popeye and Son, A New Generation, Strongman sailor Popeye and girl friend Olive Oyl marry and have a son, Popeye Junior. It is time to join them in their hectic summer activities. This feature will be shown at the British Council, Mansouria. Admission free but reservations must be made. Tel: 2533227.

Hotels

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmad Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Buffets featuring Continental and Oriental cuisine; emphasis on seafood.

Al Andalus Supper Club:

Arabic style dining on Thursday nights; music by resident Arab band.

Friday Family Lunch: Disney Fantasy; children half price.

At the International

Failaka: situated on the 19th floor, overlooking the coastline, it offers international cuisine; live entertainment in the evenings. Closed on Fridays.

La Palmera: offers buffet as well as a la carte, Family style brunch on Fridays.

Ker: offers Japanese dining in an oriental atmosphere.

La Patisserie: selection of snacks; pianist in the evenings. Al Waha: ice cream promotion featuring different flavours, until August 1990.

At the Sheraton

Hunt Room: Daily buffet; lunch in addition to a la carte; plus grilled specialities; a la carte dinner plus some specialities from Le Tarnouche; Duo Fantasy in attendance.

Wednesday/Thursday: Oriental buffet; live entertainment by the Lourdes Band and Arab singer Mohammad Baghdadi. The restaurant is open from 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm; and 8 to 12.30 am.

Riccardo Restaurant: will be open for dinner 8pm to 11pm with live entertainment by Regina and Frances.

Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6am to 0100am.

At the Meridien

La Brasserie

Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.

Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.

Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bouskouli music.

Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.

Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.

La Palmera: offers buffet as well as a la carte, Family style brunch on Fridays.

Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.40 Ifrah Ya Simsim
10.00 Good Morning
10.30 Wad Al Nabaar: Arabic serial, featuring Azza Kamal, Mustafa Fahmi.
11.15 Sabah Al Khair
12.00 Al Kanaz: Arabic serial, featuring Hind Kamel, Nazar Al Samari
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.30 Al Sanafer: cartoon serial
2.30 Surkhat Nadam: Gulf serial; featuring Ali Hassan, Maryam Saleh

3.30 Alif Laila Wa Laila
4.00 Liqa Al Khamsi: weekly roundup of local news presented by Amina Al Sharrah, Majed Al Shati
5.30 Cartoons
6.00 Report From Egypt to Kuwait
6.30 Sandoor Peter: children's programme
7.30 Songs
7.45 With Islam
8.25 From People's Lives
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Raqeeb La Yanam: Arabic serial, featuring Ahmad Mazhar, Samiya Al Afifi, Nawal Abu Futouh.

10.45 Shabab Al Ka'if: Afreet: Arabic feature film, starring Mohsin Mohiuddin, Naseem, Mohammad Muneez, Mohammad Rida
12.00 Akhtarna Lakum: late night entertainment
1.25 News Summary
1.30 World News via Satellite
1.45 Holy Quran/Close-down

tural programme
8.45 Hadith Usbooh: religious programme
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Raqeeb La Yanam: Arabic serial; featuring Ahmad Mazhar, Samiya Al Afifi, Nawal Abu Futouh
11.00 Television Magazine: presented by Rasha Magdi
12.15 News Summary
12.20 World news via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran/Close-down

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 My Secret Identity: Andrew wants to help his girlfriend solve a problem.
7.00 Star Trek: "The Outrageous Okona." The Okona seeks sanctuary on the Enterprise; trouble breaks out after another spaceship claims Okona has stolen the captain's jewellery. What is the secret behind Okona?
8.00 News in English
8.40 Adventurer: Jack sails towards an island where he hopes to find a hidden treasure.
9.30 Paul Daniel Magic show
10.00 Bill Cosby Show: "Mister Sandman." Cliff volunteers to take his daughter to dance lessons... Starring: Bill Cosby, Phylicia Rashad.
10.45 Shabab Al Ka'if: Afreet: Arabic feature film, starring Mohsin Mohiuddin, Naseem, Mohammad Muneez, Mohammad Rida
12.00 Thursday Night Movie: "Sweet Revenge."
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Family Feature Film: "The Wonderful World of Disney." The story of Hamad, who is kidnapped from Bahrain and taken to an island.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away: A look at what's on in Kuwait.
8.50 T & T: "Hard Way Home." Kidnap and ransom demands form the theme of this episode. Starring: Mr. T.
9.15 Globe TV: A Ticket to the world.

10.00 Doctor Doctor: Dr Michael disagrees with the way in which their clinic is run; and the doctors almost break up. Comedy.
10.30 The Men: "Thomas." Paul wants to write an expose on police corruption.
11.30 News in Brief
11.35 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

Sport

All Filipino Scrabble Tournament
July 20: Filcheck have announced an all-female scrabble tournament, scheduled to start on Friday, July 20, will now be open to all Filipinos, male and female. Deadline for entries is July 19.

A total of 15 minutes is allocated for each player to finish the game; a player who exceeds the time limit will cease to play and his/her last score will be considered as the last score. Each player is required to use a chess clock to monitor time. The winner or the player with the highest score wins.

The champion and the two runners-up will each receive a trophy and valuable gift items. Registration forms are available at the Kabayan Restaurant. For details contact Edward/Liza 2402405

British Council
The British Council is giving out information on how to get British qualifications through correspondence

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



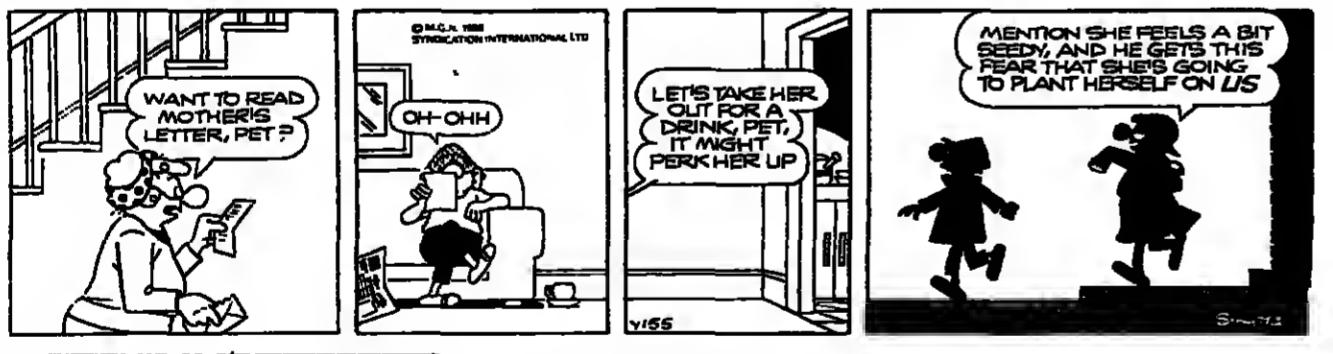
BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



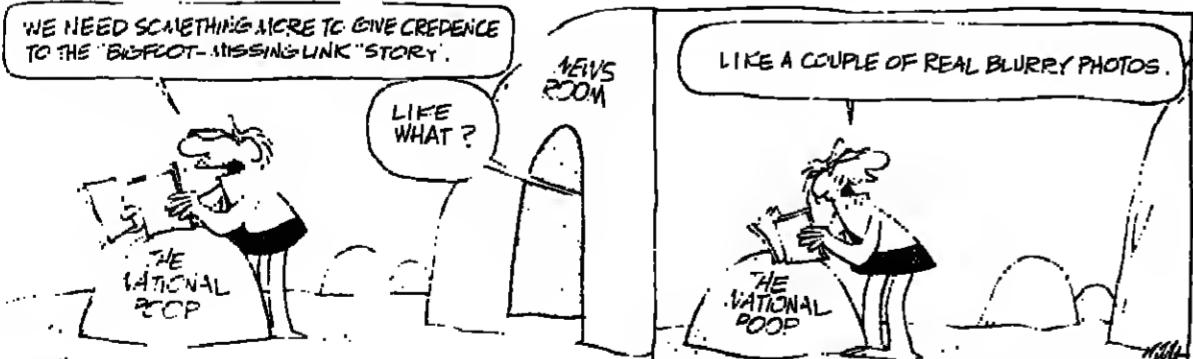
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



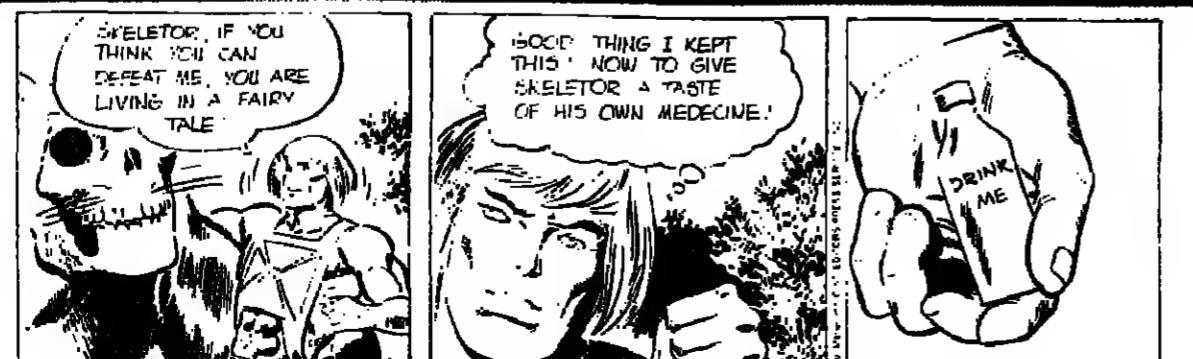
ANDY CAPP



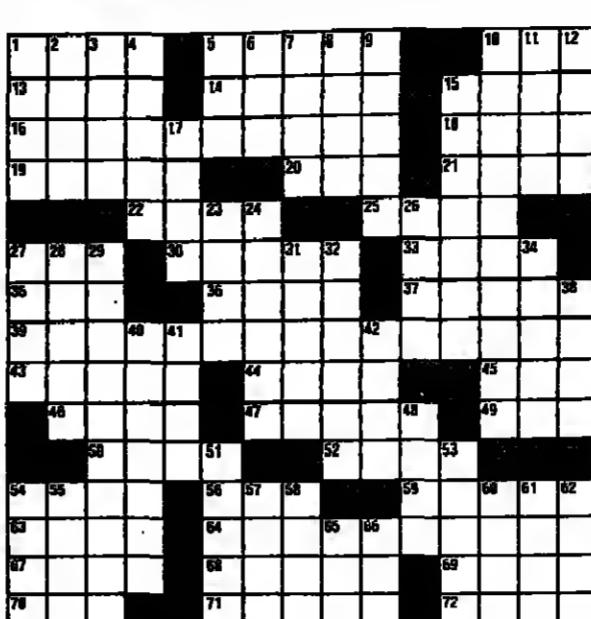
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Fenton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Quick kiss
5 Gets an F
10 Humor
13 Algerian port
14 Heberdesherry purchase
15 Island off Scotland
16 Desk compartment
18 Cut
19 Scornful look
20 Dundee denial
21 Newts
22 Mizzen or spoker
25 Spanish artist
27 This one: Lal
30 Circular figures
33 Dillon of "Gunsmoke"
35 Freud's "alas"
36 Street sound
37 Asian nation
39 Pour
43 Talk-show VIP
44 Anglo-Saxon slave
45 Moist
46 Barely made e living, with "out"
47 Rot
49 New Deal initials
50 Genesis site
52 Relative of etc.
54 "The — Love"
55 Baseball stat
56 Disbends
63 Reed instrument
64 Lawn game
67 Melign
68 Increase
69 Litter's littlest
70 Asian holiday
71 Word of wear or weight

DOWN

1 Fathers, familiarly
2 Emerald Isle
3 Gretzky's target
4 Lime joints
5 Ardent admirer
6 Hardwood
7 Sacred image
8 "Damn Yankees" siren
9 Equine
10 Eat voraciously
11 "What's — for me?"
12 Feuets
15 N. Atlantic republic
17 Spoken
23 Very small amount
24 Pillaged
26 Surrounded by
27 Rabbi's kin
28 "—, I saw, I conquered", 29 Lose one's nerve
31 Sheriff's men
32 At bat position
34 Detroit athlete
38 Nick and Nora's dog
40 More destitute
41 Yield
42 Ordriely
48 Pound sounds
51 Name of fame in 37 Across
53 Actor Bert's family
54 Greatest amount
55 Start of a palindrome
57 Horse of a certain color
58 Dry
80 Lecherous man
61 Big top at the circus
62 Swift planes, 63 Compass dir.
66 Always, to a bard

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

R	I	T	A	V	I	D	M	A	T
A	T	O	P	D	I	N	N	T	A
T	E	M	I	D	C	M	A	R	L
E	S	S	O	I	A	R	T	T	E
S	O	L	D	E	P	E	S	I	N
O	D	E	L	E	R	E	S	E	S
D	E	R	E	S	A	R	E	S	E
E	R	E	S	E	P	R	E	S	E
E	R	E	S	E	R	E	S	E	E
E	R	E	S	E	R	E	S	E	E

YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 19

Not everything will proceed quite in the way you would have wished, but some things will proceed faster and better. There is however, no time to lose and you should not linger. Put a curb on your expenditure. Be pernickety.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

There will be some holdups where details are concerned. However, the most important matters will proceed well. Do not allow yourself to be tempted to do what you know you should not be doing. Be straightforward.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Take things more as they come, but do not just wait for things to happen. What you had expected will not be quite as expected, indeed not as bad as you had feared. Make sure you do not exceed any safe and proper limits. Be sincere.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

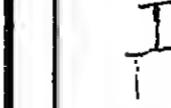
You will find a new, better way of doing something routine. Others will be more favourably inclined towards you and should return the compliment. Do not leave travel arrangements until the last minute. Be less obstinate.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 20

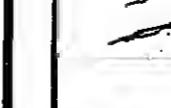
You will have to make a few concessions and they will prove to have been well worth while. You are liable to think negative thoughts and should try instead to look more on the positive side.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Take things more as they come, but do not just wait for things to happen. What you had expected will not be quite as enjoyable as you had hoped. Never mind, you will know how to make the most of it. Do not allow yourself to be misled by sales talk and by believing that what you would like to be is.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

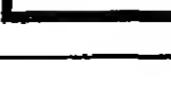
Something to which you had been looking forward will not be quite as enjoyable as you had hoped. Never mind, you will know how to make the most of it. Do not allow yourself to be misled by sales talk and by believing that what you would like to be is.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

Try to think as others about a problem. If you can it will be easier to take the right action. Check your figures as you go along rather than waiting until the end. Relying on guesswork is a grave mistake just now. Be attentive.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will tend to be a little too meticulous, but by the same token you should not go to the opposite extreme. Do not dwell so much on what happened in the past, instead act in the present and look forward to the future. Seek to preserve your inner peace of mind. Be frank.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You have plenty to do and enough time to do it only if you do not allow yourself to be distracted. Your lucky numbers are 7 and 23. Be on your guard, there are those who are out to swindle you. Do not let a friend down. Be frugal.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

Do not state you intend what you have no intention of doing. Give others the benefit of the doubt. A little more kindness on your part will make you too feel a lot better. Be moderate.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

STAY IN CONTROL

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♦ 8 6
♥ 10 7 3 2
♦ A K 9 5
♣ K Q 3

WEST

♦ K Q J 9 5
♥ Q J 9 8
♦ 7 3
♣ A 8

EAST

♦ 7 4 3 2
♥ 6
♦ J 10 6 4 2
♣ 7 6 2

SOUTH

♦ A 10
♥ A K 5 4
♦ Q 8
♣ J 10 9 5 4

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ Dbl 3 ♠ 4 ♠

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Many contracts turn on control of the hand. To relinquish control willingly, when there is no need, can be tantamount to committing suicide, as this hand illustrates.

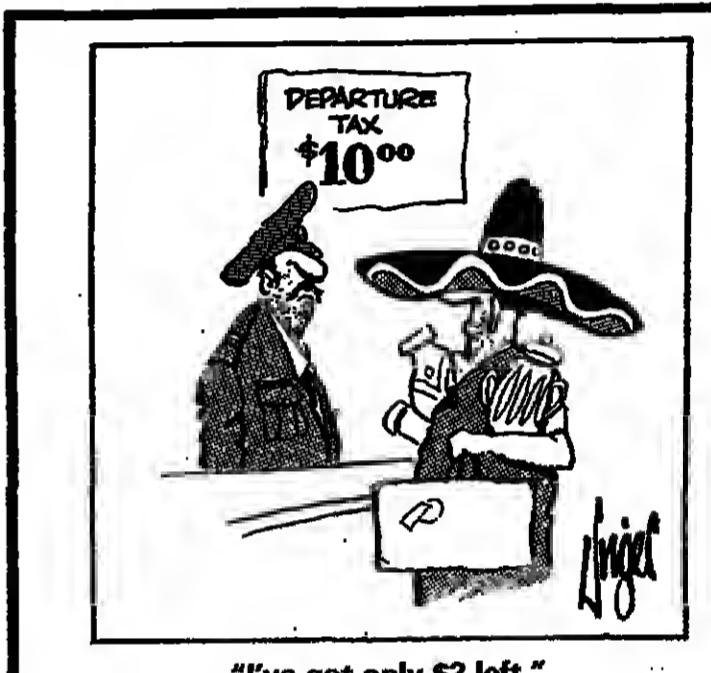
East's jump to three spades over the double was preemptive, although there are those, ourselves included, who might argue that East held less than the law allows! That, however, had no bearing on the final contract, which was excellent.

West made the normal lead of the

king of spades, taken by the ace. Declarer cashed the king and ace of spades and received the bad news. Next came three rounds of diamonds to take care of declarer's spade loser. West refused to ruff. Now declarer turned to the club suit, but West took the ace at the first opportunity, drew two rounds of trumps to exhaust all the hearts, then cashed four spades tricks to complete an undignified four-trick ruff.

The 4-1 trump break was rather unfortunate, but need not have been disastrous had declarer retained command of the play. South can afford to lose two trumps and a club, which presents no problem so as long as neither defender is void in hearts.

After winning the ace of spades, declarer should draw only one round of trumps. Next come three rounds of diamonds, taking care of the spade loser, and West should refrain from ruffing. Still steering clear of trumps, declarer continues the good work by forcing out the ace of clubs. Once that card is removed, declarer simply plays clubs from hand until a defender ruffs, then cashes the remaining high trump after regaining the lead.



"You idiot! You threw away the keys to the washroom again!"

"We're waiting for a probation report, Your Honor."

Indian Cinema

Bollywood scandal

Ghai molests Manisha: report

EVEN as the controversy about Rekha's marriage-divorce floated, trade magazine broke another scandal: alleged molestation of newcomer Manisha Koirala. The story, carried by a film magazine, claimed Ghai tried to molest Manisha during the outdoor shooting of *Saudagar* in Manali, Himachal Pradesh. It said Ghai called Manisha to his hotel room on the pretext of discussing a hotel room when the alleged incident took place.

Shocked, Manisha rushed back to Bombay with her mother. Her father, who belongs to a royal family of Nepal, got in touch with politicians like Chandra Shekhar in New Delhi. Reportedly, things got to normal after the intervention of many people, including Raj Babbar and Dilip Kumar.

Soon after the magazine article, contradictory reports appeared in other trade journals. Also, Manisha returned to Kulu-Manali, where shooting was in full swing. Manisha issued a denial. "I hear with distress some magazines are spreading false and baseless rumours of a so-called conflict between Subhashji and I. I hereby state that this is an absolutely false and concocted story." She also claims: "Some motivated and jealous people have an axe to grind and have

blown it out of proportion." However, she admitted experiencing "minor irritations" on the sets.

The denial was addressed to *Saudagar*'s public relations officer, Gopal Pandey. Why was he informed and instructed to do the needful? The magazine which broke the scandal has strong political connections. Recently, it organised a ceremony in the UK in honour of Amitabh Bachchan. Pandey is a confidante of the magazine editor. And Bachchan is nursing a wound. Ghai shelved *Deeva*. He also did not ask Bachchan to take part in a stage show.

Frankly, the episode could be a publicity stunt, stage-managed by Ghai. A similar scandal rocked the industry. Rajesh Khanna was accused of harassing Sabitha, a 16-year-old actress. After the film's release, the air cleared. And everyone became friends.

However, the present scandal there is a strong political implications. Manisha's grandfather was once the prime minister of Nepal. Last year, India's relations with Nepal soured over renewal of a bilateral trade agreement. The present government is improving ties. In fact, when the scandal was reported, the Nepalese prime minister was in Delhi.



Ghazal, Bina and Kiran Kumar in *Yaaron Ke Mausam*.

Pervez peddles dreams

Muslim social returns

SALAHUDDIN Pervez, a well-known name in Urdu literary circles, took to films some years ago. His first venture, entitled *Jumbish* (with Akbar Khan and Padmima Kohlapure) did not create a stir, as expected. No one understood the high-flown Urdu prose.

He has toned down for his next venture, called *Yaaron Ke Mausam*, and promises to reach the masses with "dreams and music." He has resorted to the '60s film-making style. He dwells on platonic love where the two besotted lovers rely on poetry, romantic missives and eye-contact. Pervez believes this approach is realistic, unlike the "I-meet-you-and-fall-in-love" syndrome picked up from European and American movies.

The small-budget film introduces Ghazal and Vrakrant, supported by character actors like Saeed Jaffrey, Sushma Seth and Bina. Kiran Kumar represents the Hindu community in the film. Pervez tries to capture the inter-action between the two communities through Kiran's character.

It's the story of an Indian who returns home to find love. This aspect could be autobiographical. Pervez sells computers for an American firm in the Middle East. He also authored "Identity Card," blasting Salman Rushdie.

Pervez had to compromise on his literary style to write lyrics for his film *Yaaron Ke Mausam*. Music is by Anand-Milind. The film will be released shortly.

The film will be released shortly.

Here comes the wacky bride....

In new Alan Alda comedy

MOVIE star Alan Alda stood in a tent with the rain pouring down at his daughter Bea's wedding... and suddenly thought of a bright, multi-million dollar idea. He would make a movie about a wedding.

From that moment on, not a wink, not a groan, not a tart remark from a guest went unnoticed by ex-Dr Hawkeye of *M.A.S.H.*, the father of the bride.

And now 54-year-old Alan's research has paid off in his latest film, *Betsy's Wedding*. This comedy tells of the emotional ups and downs of two people—and two families—united in uneasy matrimony.

This time the bride is not daughter Beatrice, but actress Molly Ringwald. Brat-packer Ally Sheedy is another daughter at the highly-charged nuptials. But the father of the bride, Alan, just goes on playing himself.

Alan recalls how this wedding was born out of the other nuptials more than two years ago. He said, "We were all standing in this damp, rented tent when our youngest girl was married.

"I was shooting '*A New Life*' at the time, and I had to rush from the beach,

where we were filming a scene, out to the country for Bea's wedding." "When she returned from her honeymoon, she played Judy, my daughter in the film, and was on the set when I married another character. It was that I began writing this story."

Alan said that, although Bea's wedding was nothing like as fraught as Betsy's, he realised what a "complex and tumultuous event a wedding really can be" when he and his wife Arlene were planning it.

Alan was also struck by the emotional impact of the event. "It's an emotionally-charged day. For a few minutes everyone feels a glimmer of hope that it's possible for two people to live happily together for the rest of their lives that people from different backgrounds and traditions can blend."

"Weddings can force people to go through changes. Romances begin, relationships fall apart, and, as Eddie says in the film, 'People get crazy when they get married'."

Alan has come a long way since he was voted "the most popular TV per-

sonality" nearly ten years ago. That was when he was swabbing wounds and pulling strokes in a Korean military hospital as Hawkeye. In *Betsy's Wedding*, for example, he acts and directs as well as being the film's creator.

He appears to have inherited his sparkling talent from his father, the late and distinguished actor Robert Alda. Alan was already stepping into the spotlight at the age of 16, when he made his theatrical debut in Pennsylvania.

Making his way steadily to the top, he was acting on Broadway six years later and made his debut on celluloid in 1963. Notable films have been *California Suite* and *Paper Lion*.

Then in 1972, Alan achieved international success as silver-tongued Hawkeye Pierce in the long-running television series *M.A.S.H.* And it was during this time that he began to write and direct, winning five Emmy awards for episodes of the show.

And now he can even turn a family wedding into a blockbuster. At least, it more than paid the bill for daughter Bea's big day.



Eddie (Alan Alda) and his daughter Betsy (Molly Ringwald) have two different visions of her wedding day in the wacky comedy written and directed by Alda.

Hollywood makes a powerful Aids film

HOLLYWOOD. (UPI) Aids has been taboo in movies since the disease began stalking the world.

Aids largely has involved homosexuality, which except in comedies has kept large audiences away from the box office.

Moreover, movies with unhappy endings or tragedies based on a disease such as cancer have had difficulty attracting audiences. A notable exception was *Terms of Endearment* in 1983.

Finally, however, a feature film has been made about Aids. It is *Longtime Companion*, released in May in New York and Los Angeles, cities that include large homosexual communities. It has received mostly praise by critics and will be more widely distributed.

Longtime Companion was brought to the screen by writer Craig Lucas and first-time film director Norman Rene outside the Hollywood mainstream. The Goldwyn company is distributing the drama, which involves eight major characters, half of whom die of aids-related conditions.

One of the most praised scenes features actor Bruce Davison helping his lover, played by Mark Lamos, accept the inevitability of his death.

At his Hollywood Hills home, which he shares with his actress wife Lisa Pelikan, Davison best known for his role in the cult film *Willard* in which he kisses a rat, said a movie about Aids is long overdue.

Unlike some actors who are chary about playing homosexuals for fear it will stigmatize them, Davison welcomed the opportunity.

"I'd be lying if I said the prospect of playing a gay character in a movie about Aids didn't give me some pause," he said. "But I'm a character actor, not concerned about my image."

"What attracted me was the complexities of the characters and the opportunity to work with Lucas and Rene. The script was a wonderful ensemble piece."

"I loved the character of David. He starts with no commitment but he develops to become a courageous person."

"In the beginning he shares the national sense of denial about Aids, which is understandable when you feel threatened by death."

"I lived through that death scene almost word-for-word with my mother when she was dying. I asked her to let go of life."

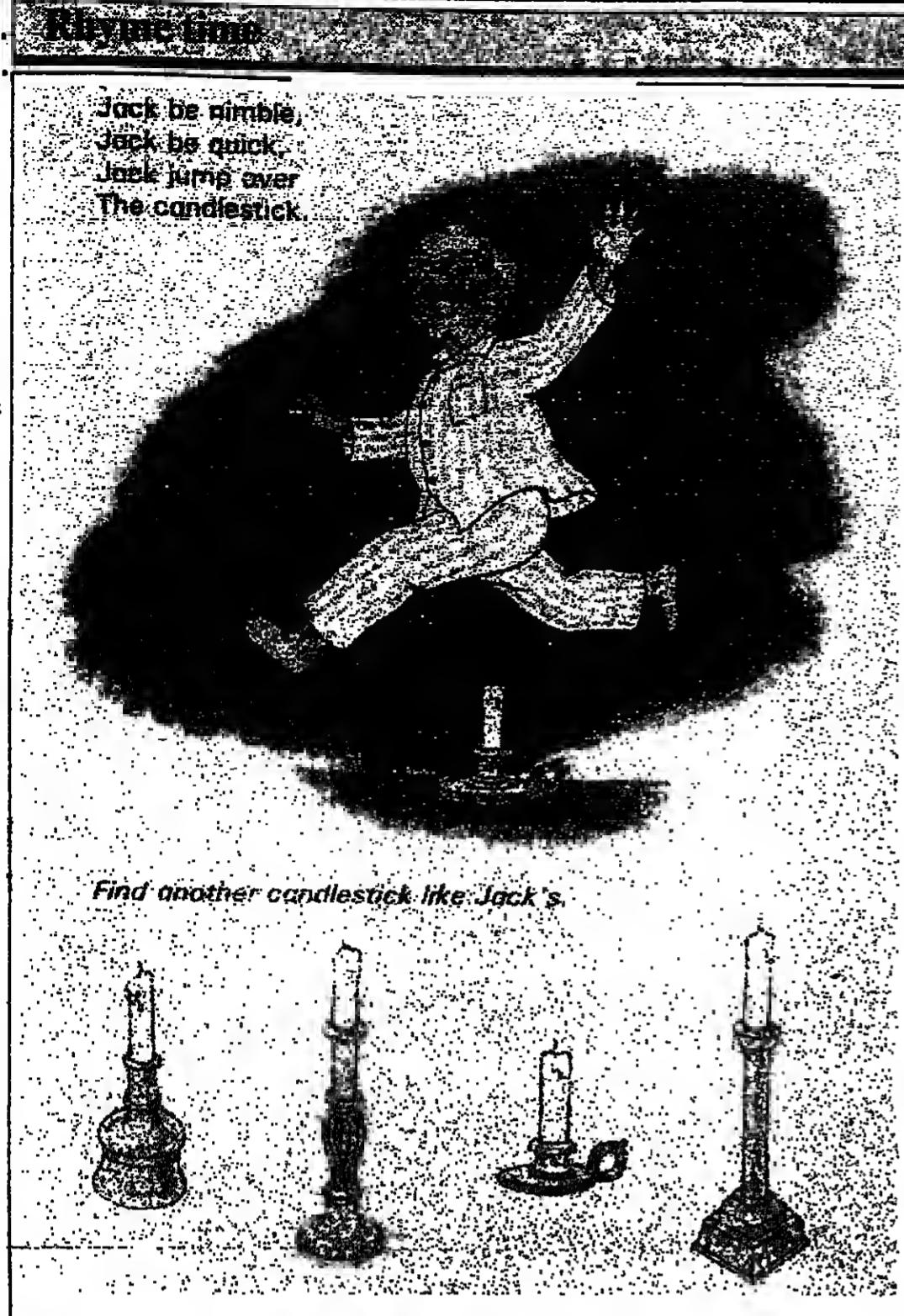
"Finally, there have been people in my life who have died of Aids, including my first agent, my personal manager and my commercial agent, all within a year. They were all gay."

"I've had many actor friends who could have played this part, men like Peter Evans who had a role in *Longtime Companion* but he died of Aids a week before he was to do his role."

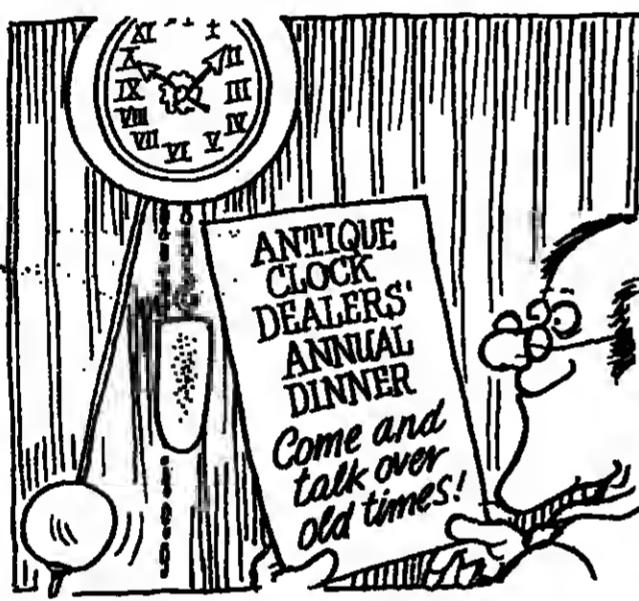
"I was a pallbearer last week for a Vietnam vet who died of Aids. It goes on and on. The problem is not going away."

"I was honoured to have the opportunity to present this interpretation. It wasn't a matter of making a career move. I've had many ups and downs in my career for the past 20 years."

"At first I didn't know if anyone would see this movie."



Mill Joseph turns 6 on July 20



Write the correct numbers in the spaces provided.

Example: $\frac{4}{3} = \frac{3}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = 1 + \frac{1}{3} = 1\frac{1}{3}$

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I. $\frac{12}{5} = \underline{\quad}$ L. $\frac{10}{9} = \underline{\quad}$

J. $\frac{19}{15} = \underline{\quad}$ M. $\frac{17}{6} = \underline{\quad}$

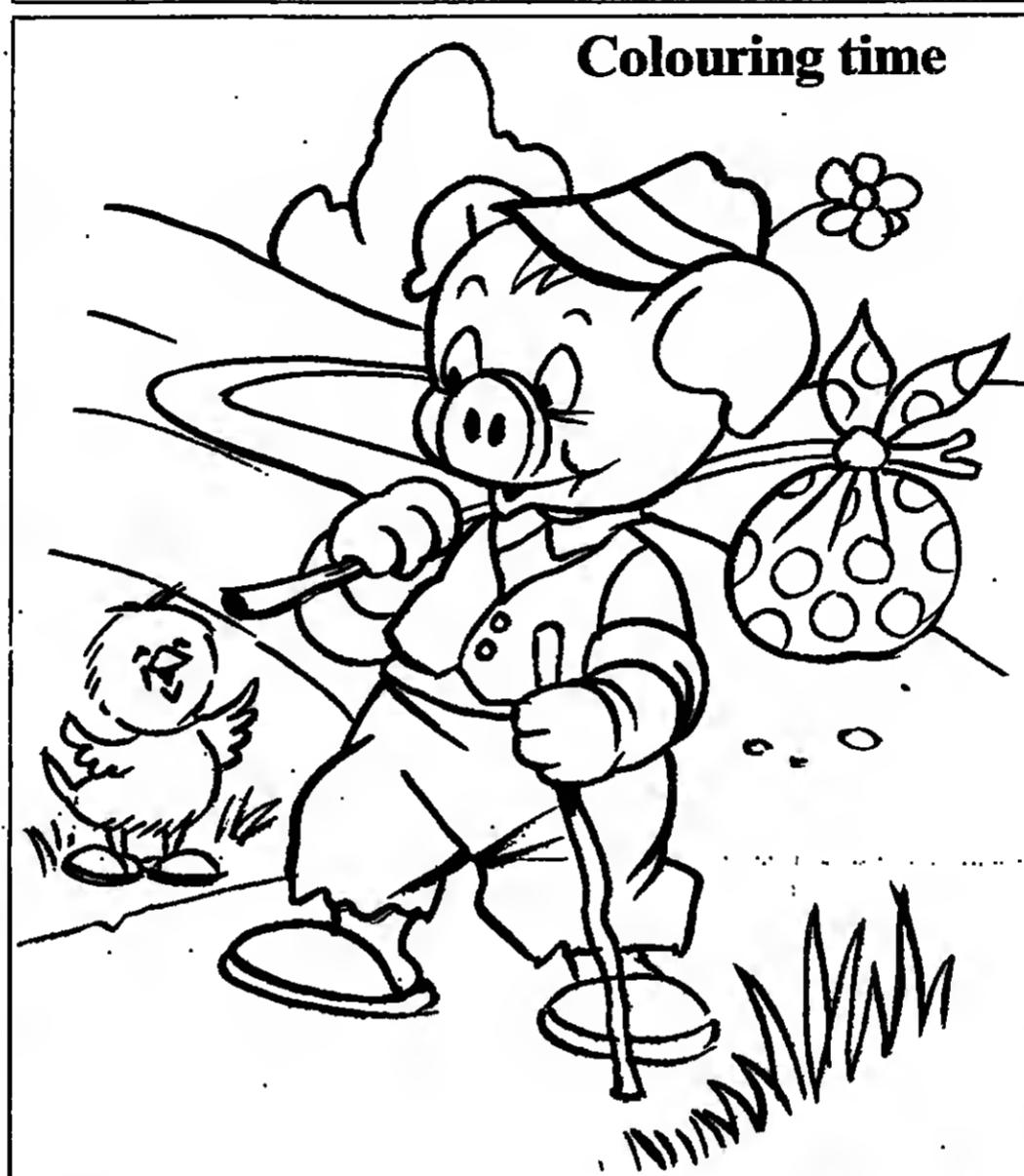
Wordsearch

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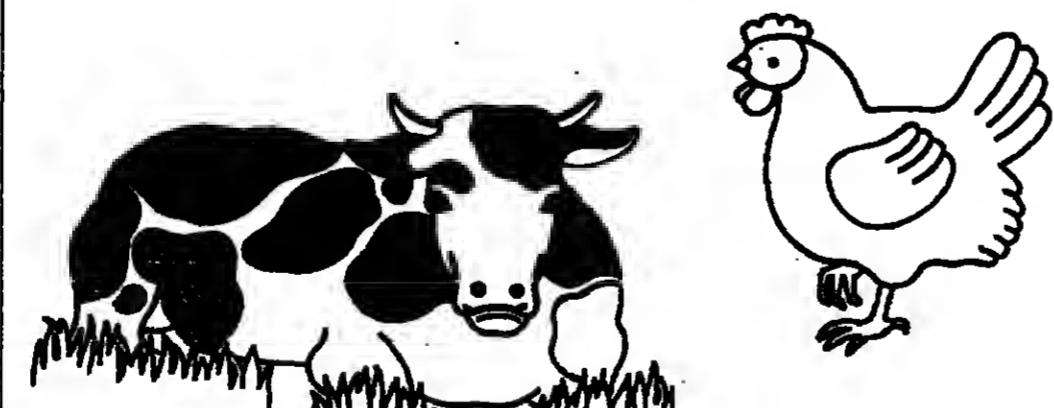
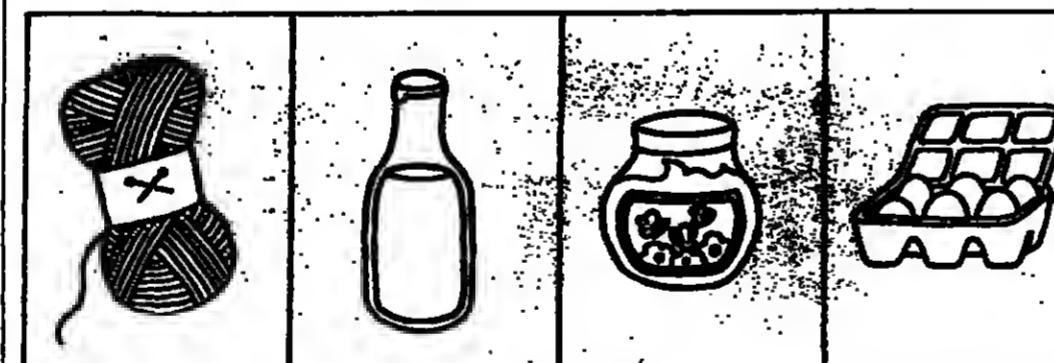
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CYLINDERS	GAS	LUGS	SIGNAL	VALVES
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Austrians prepare for Davis Cup semifinal against Americans

VIENNA, July 18, (UPI): Five tons of prime Carinthian dirt teamed with one of the world's best clay court specialists may well be Austria's winning combination in its Davis Cup semifinal against the United States.

The Austrians, who blanked Italy 5-0 in the quarterfinals in Vienna last spring, intend capitalising on home

advantage when they face their daunting opponents in September.

"The Americans are very good on clay, just as they are on a hard surface," Peter Nadler, the general secretary of the Austrian Tennis Federation, warned.

"But we're hoping that the extra efforts and expense of building the

court with this special sand from the Carinthian province will be the extra punch we need," he added.

The dirt, mined from the heart of the Carinthian Alps in the south of Austria, will cost the federation an estimated \$60,000 including construction for the three-day match scheduled to start September 21.

"It's expensive but we found out years ago that the best advantage is every advantage in terms of preparation for an event like this," Nadler said.

The United States, with 28 Davis Cup victories under its belt, is the most successful team in the history of the competition. Austria, in contrast,

had never made it beyond the quarterfinals until it pounded Italy in March.

"The win in March was partly luck," Nadler said. "By defeating the Swedes in Italy in the first round, the Italians eliminated a potentially dangerous opponent from the picture.

"But it was our careful planning, which includes asking our players

what they want, that prevented us from letting an opportunity to host the event just slip through our fingers," he added.

Too much concentration on the court surface, however, caused an uproar when Austria hosted Australia in last year's Davis Cup opening round in Vienna.

The specially built clay court at Vienna's indoor ferry Dusika Stadium, boasting an innovative coconut net base, was heavily criticised by the Australians as being too slow.

"We've learned from our mistakes," Nadler said.

McEnroe tames Chamberlin

Gilbert defeats Teltscher



McEnroe: benefited from Chamberlin's generosity

Jones Junior
KO's mystery
opponent

PENSACOLA, Florida, July 18, (AP): US boxer Roy Jones Jr. fought his way to a knockout of the ex-champion yesterday, middleweight champion. Now he doesn't know what to think.

Investigations began yesterday into allegations that the boxer Jones beat on Saturday wasn't the man he said he was.

Jones, the Olympic silver medalist in his ninth pro fight, scored a first-round knock out over someone who claimed to be Derwin Richards, Texas junior middleweight champ.

"I was definitely not there," Richards, a security guard at a Houston Correctional Facility, said in an interview published in yesterday's editions of the Pensacola News Journal. "I would like to fight Roy Jones, but that wasn't me, fighting."

Richards' manager, Willie Savannah backed up the fighter. Stanley Levin, president of Square Ring Inc., a Pensacola company that promoted the match, said he turned over all records of the fight to state attorney Curtis Golden after meeting with the prosecutor yesterday.

"I hope the people involved in his spend a long time in jail because that young man (who fought Jones) could have really been hurt," Levin said.

Golden said he is trying to determine whether any fraud was involved and whether the fight violated the state's law on pugilistic exhibitions, including a revision that requires participants to be licensed by the state.

Record

Jones knocked out the mystery opponent 2:02 into the first round. He entered the fight with 8-0 record, all by knockouts.

Jones' most famous fight is one he lost in a controversial decision in the 156-pound gold medal bout of the 1988 Olympics against a Korean fighter Park Si Hun in Seoul.

Jones was named the top fighter of the 1988 Olympics despite the loss.

■ Felix Gonzalez won a unanimous eight-round decision over Juan Laporte in the main event of a boxing card at the Butte Civic Centre, in Montana, which had four fights featuring Soviet ex-boxers.

Laporte, who held the World

Boxing Council featherweight title from 1982-84, was accidentally bunted in the third round and a cut opened on his right eyelid. The ring doctor examined the wound between rounds and referee Kevin McCarl finally stopped the scheduled 10-round fight yesterday after the eighth round.

The call initially was a technical draw, but members of the Montana State Athletic Commission held a brief huddle and Gonzalez was awarded the victory on the basis of points.

Paes gets top junior world ranking

LONDON, July 18, (AP): Victory in the boys' event at Wimbledon has helped move Leander Paes of India to No 1 in the junior world tennis rankings.

Paes, who beat Marcos Ondruska of South Africa 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 at Wimbledon, rose from ninth place, according to the lists based on the previous 32 weeks' tournaments and published yesterday by the International Tennis Federation.

The former No 1, Martin Damm of Czechoslovakia, fell to third.

In the girls' list, Bulgaria's Magdalena Malceva moved from third to first, replacing Czechoslovak Andrea Strandova at the top. Strandova, the winner of the Wimbledon girls' title, dropped to No 2.

Jennifer Capriati of the United States was eighth, falling steadily down the junior rankings as she rose rapidly through the senior list.

■ In Estoril, Portugal top-seed Isabel Cueto of West Germany defeated her compatriot Angela Karel in three sets yesterday to advance to the second round of the \$100,000 Estoril Girls' Open.

Cueto, the defending champion, won 6-4, 7-6, 7-3 as the temperatures at the Carcavelos Club soared to a sizzling 37C (99 F).

No 2 seed Sandra Ceccinelli of

Czechoslovakia all over the centre court to earn an easy 6-0, 6-0 victory after only 30 minutes.

The win sends Ceccinelli, fresh from her victory at last week's Swedish open, into the second round.

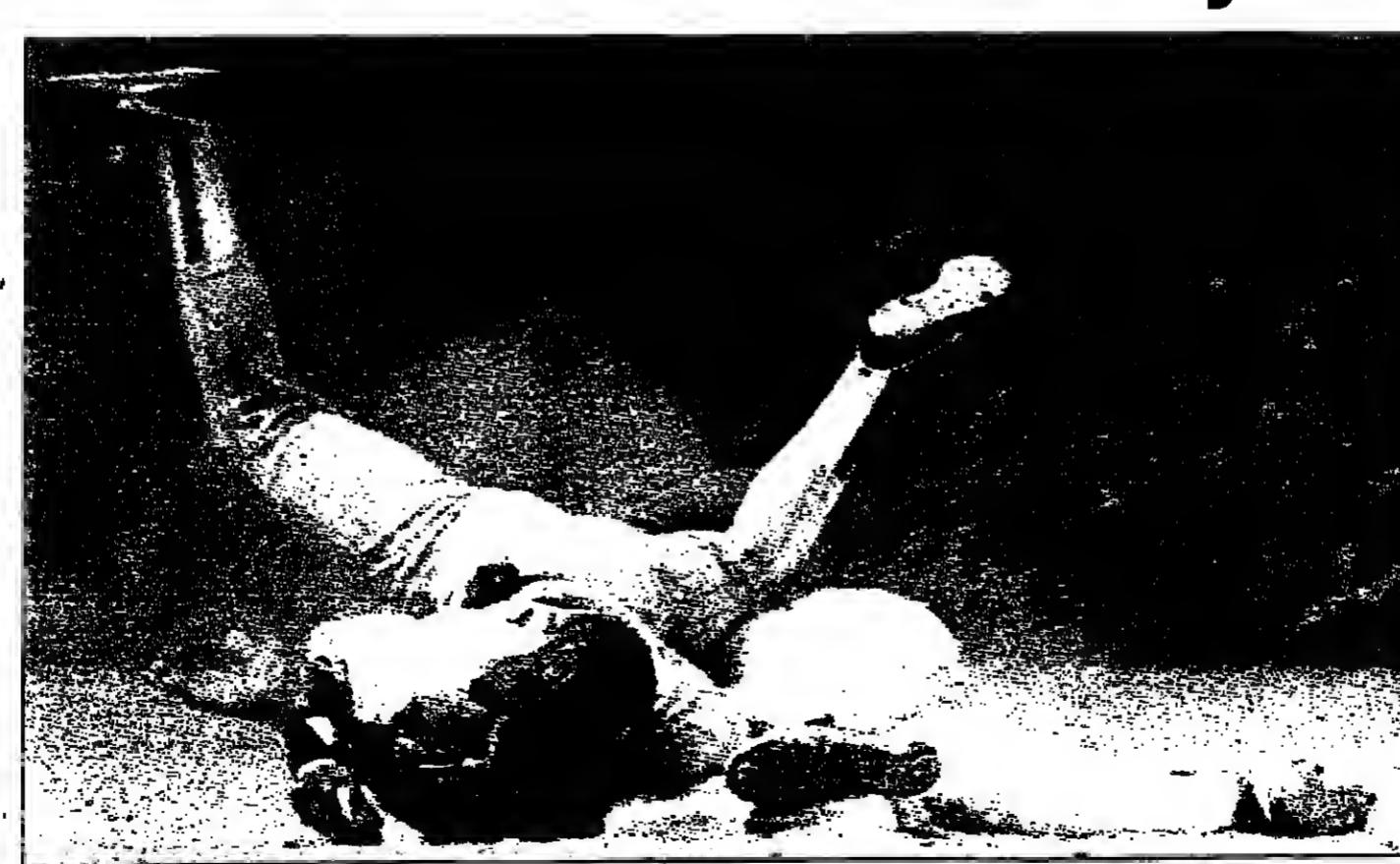
■ Stuttgart, West Germany: Men's singles results at the one-million-dollar Grand Prix Tennis-championships in Stuttgart yesterday:

First round: Eric Jelen (West Germany) beat Olivier Delaître (France) 6-7 (4-7) 6-1 7-5; Luiz Matar (Brazil) beat Martin Sinner (West Germany) 6-3 6-7 (5-7) 7-5; Sergi Bruguera (Spain) beat Udo Riglewski (West Germany) 7-6 (7-3) 6-4; Andrej Cherkasov (Soviet Union) beat Jan Gunnarsson (Sweden) 6-2 5-7 6-4; Jorgen Windahl (Sweden) beat Alex Antonitsch (Austria) 4-0 (Antonitsch withdrew); Jimmy Arias (USA) beat Alberto Martínez (Argentina) 6-4 6-3; Javier Sanchez (Spain) beat Richard Vogel (Czechoslovakia) 7-6 (10-8) 6-2; Jaime Yzaga (Peru) beat Jean-Philippe Fleurant (France) 5-7 6-4 7-6 (7-3); Richard Fromberg (Australia) beat Thierry Tulasie (France) 4-6 6-2 7-5; Second round: Tomas Carbonell (Spain) beat Carl-Uwe Stech (West Germany) 6-3 7-5; Emilio Sanchez (Spain) beat Jens Woeckmann (West Germany) 4-6 6-3; Wally Masur (Australia) beat Juan Aguilera (Spain) 7-6 (9-7) 7-5.



Paes: Junior Wimbledon champion

Scudder leads Reds to 6-2 victory over Expos



San Diego Padres' baseman tips over Chicago Cubs' Shawson Dunson. (Reuter wirephoto)

loser, allowing five runs on eight hits. Five of Chicago's seven runs were unearned.

Mets 6, Astros 2

Dwight Gooden won his

seventh straight start and Kevin McReynolds went 4-for-4 for the Mets.

Gooden (10-5), who hasn't

lost since June 2, gave up seven

hits, struck out 10 and walked three over 7-2/3 innings. John Franco finished for his 19th save.

The Mets had 16 hits, includ-

ing two doubles and a homer by

Howard Johnson. New York has won 20 of its last 26 games and 10 of its last 15 on the road.

Bill Gullickson (6-7) took the

loss, giving up five runs on 10 hits

in 5-2/3 innings.

Giants 6, Pirates 3

Matt Williams hit a tie-breaking Grand Slam in the sixth and Don Robinson pitched eight strong innings for the Giants.

Robinson (6-1), traded to the Giants by Pittsburgh in August 1987, was facing the Pirates for the first time since going 0-3 with an 8.20 ERA against them last season. He struck out four and walked one.

Cardinals 3, Dodgers 0

Bryn Smith won his first game in six weeks and Pedro Guerrero had two doubles and two RBIs as the Cardinals shut out the Dodgers.

Fernando Valenzuela, facing the Cardinals for the first time since throwing a no-hitter against them on June 29, gave up six hits in six innings. Five of the hits were doubles.

Guerrero doubled off Valenzuela (7-8) to lead off the second, and had a two-run double in the fourth.

Results

	National League		
Chicago	7	San Diego	2
Cincinnati	6	Montreal	2
San Francisco	6	Pittsburgh	3
Atlanta	14	Philadelphia	10
New York	6	Houston	2
St Louis	3	Los Angeles	0
		American League	
Cleveland	7	Baltimore	2
Kansas City	10	New York	2
Baltimore	5	Texas	3
Boston	1	Minnesota	0
Chicago	7	Detroit	5
Seattle	7	Toronto	3
California	8	Milwaukee	1

Stage set for start of Goodwill Games

SEATTLE, July 18, (UPI): Athletes from around the world brought the Goodwill Games Village to life yesterday, creating the look and feel of a big-time athletic event in a city preparing for the largest multi-sport competition outside the Olympics.

"A lot of people have been planning and working very hard towards this day for a long, long time," said Bob Walsh, who as president of the Seattle Organizing Committee has nursed the Goodwill Games to fruition.

"It is finally here."

Flights increased into the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, more than 200 members of the media had arrived, first Lady Barbara Bush prepared for a visit and security was steadily tightened.

The Games begin Friday with competition in volleyball and swimming and will continue through Aug 5. More than 50 countries will send 2,500 competitors to take part in 21 sports in venues spread out across the state of Washington.

Although athletes began to drift into town Monday, the activity increased dramatically in the village yesterday. And with the Games only three days away, much of the attention was focused on the arrivals from the Soviet Union.

There was a question, however, as to whether that group would include world polo vault record-holder Sergei Bubka.

Nikolai Ruzak, chairman of the Soviet Ministry of Physical Culture and Sport, said on his arrival in Seattle that Bubka had an injured back and would not compete in Goodwill Games. Bubka did compete in Barcelona last weekend and finished sixth with a vault of 18-feet, 1-3/4 inches (5.53 m), 21 inches (53 cm) shy of his world record.

A spokesman for the Athletics Congress, however, said Bubka would show up.

Campus

The first of the Soviet athletes who arrived early this week were housed in their own dormitory on the campus of the University of Washington. Dorm rooms for the rest of the competitors were arranged by sport rather than by country so that figure skaters, baseball players, swimmers and all the rest could mingle with athletes in their own field — no matter their nationality.

"That's great," said Mike Barron, world record-holder in the 200-metre breaststroke. "That means you get to meet your competitors and that is what this is all about. That doesn't happen at the Olympics."

"It seems to be really well thought out and organised here. That's more than I can say about the other international events I've been to. Of course it is the first day so I can't tell a lot. But you have to believe they will do a really good job about it."

"The one thing I don't like is that we are a long way from the competition site (in Tacoma, 30 miles — 48 km — away). So I'm just going to use the university pool here to work out."

Very few of those taking part will stay in Seattle during the entire two weeks of the Goodwill Games. As a cost-saving device, athletes are scheduled to arrive only a few days before the start of their event and leave shortly after it is over.

The village, lined with electrified fences and off limits to students and officials from the university, was guarded yesterday by 200 Washington state troopers. Every item headed into the village had to go through a metal detector and it took four days before clearance was finally given for the goods that were stockpiled in the village drug store.

Named

Since swimming is the first of the major events to crank up at the Goodwill Games, several of that sport's superstars roamed the village yesterday. Among them was Janet Evans, winner of three gold medals in the Seoul Olympics. She was named the United States Olympic Committee's 1989 Sportsman of the Year.

Evans, who will compete in the 400-, 800- and 1,500-metre freestyle races as well as in the 400-metre individual medley, attracted a wave of autograph seekers during her first trip to the village's yogurt stand yesterday.

The official opening ceremonies for the competition will not take place until Saturday, but the thousands of volunteers who have given their time to the Goodwill Games effort will enjoy their own ceremony tomorrow.

Barbara Bush will visit with the volunteers at Memorial Stadium at Seattle Centre in the shadow of the city's landmark Space Needle. The First Lady will make the side trip to Seattle while her husband is on a fund-raising mission for Republican congressional candidates in Montana and Idaho.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Unity cricket

ENTRIES are now open for teams wishing to participate in the Unity cricket tournaments 1990/91 season scheduled to commence in mid-September, 1990 at the Kuwait Oil Co. grounds in Ahmadi. For details contact Deniz Mencz on 3989671 between 6.30 and 8.00 pm. Closing date for entries -- August 1, 1990. Preference will be given to teams wishing to play on Thursdays and Fridays.

Palmer sues

ORLANDO, Florida, July 18, (UPI): Legendary golfer Arnold Palmer has accused a Japanese firm in an \$8 million lawsuit of secretly using his name to sell interests in a club. The complaint, filed Monday in circuit court, alleges that WDI Systems of Japan used Palmer's name to sell interest and memberships in the Bay Hill of Orlando. The suit charges the company reneged on its commitment to buy the club when it sales efforts failed.

World basketball

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, July 18, (UPI): The United States rallied from a two-point halftime deficit to defeat Cuba 87-78 in the final round of the 11th Women's World Basketball Championship last night. In other final round matches, it was Yugoslavia 81, Czechoslovakia 66; Bulgaria 65; Canada 61; and the Soviet Union 70; Australia 60.

Double bid

BRASILIA, Brazil, July 18, (AP): Brazil said yesterday that it will enter a bid to host the 1998 World Cup and the 2000 Summer Olympic Games. Secretary of Sports Artur Nunes Coimbra said in a TV interview that the government was forming a commission to promote Brazil in its bid to host both events.

Coach banned

INDIANAPOLIS, July 18, (Reuters): A three-member panel from the Athletics Congress has suspended former track coach Chuck DeBus from athletics for life for encouraging athletes to use banned substances, TAC announced yesterday.

New backer

LONDON, July 18, (UPI): Britain's Commonwealth Games javelin champion Tessa Sanderson is seeking a new backer to help achieve her ambition of ending her career with a second Olympic gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics. Sanderson, the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic gold medalist, said yesterday: "I am trying to find a backer for Barcelona as I am getting no help from the British Athletics Board."

\$900,000 deal

MANCHESTER, England, July 18, (UPI): Manchester City manager Howard Kendall yesterday agreed a £500,000 (539,000) transfer fee with Middlesbrough for 24-year-old midfielder Mark Brennan. The deal will take Kendall's spending in his eight months in charge of the English First Division soccer club to more than £24 million (37.2 million).

Two-year deal

NANCY, France, July 18, (UPI): Aime Jacquet, former head coach of Bordeaux and Montpellier soccer clubs, has signed a two-year deal to coach at Nancy, which won promotion to the French First Division for the forthcoming season. Jacquet, who coached Bordeaux to three French titles and two French Cups, said his new job would be "a different adventure, but not less stimulating."

Rowing event

VIENNA, July 18, (UPI): Following success in France and at the international regatta at Lausanne by its rowing crew, Austria will send six boats to the 1990 World Rowing Championships at Lake Barrington in Tasmania, Australia, at the end of October.

Slovakia cycling

BRATISLAVA, Austria, July 18, (UPI): Riders from eight countries will contest the 34th Cycle Tour of Slovakia, the World Cup event, starting July 26 in the east Slovakian town of Presov, the Czechoslovak news agency CTK, have reported. Riders from West and East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Holland, Greece, Austria and Switzerland are scheduled to compete. Soviet Union riders will miss this year's Tour because it coincides with their national championships.

Positive balance

VIENNA, July 18, (UPI): As the Austrian parliament completes its final business before going to the polls in November, Sports Minister Dr Hilde Haweck has reported a positive balance in funds made available for sports. Largely due to the lucrative sports "Toto" lottery the 1990 sports budget was increased by 35 million Austrian schillings to 448 million schillings (\$37.5 million).

UEFA Cup

VIENNA, July 18, (UPI): Austrian First Division club Rapid Vienna is still struggling with the problem of where to stage its UEFA Cup first round first-leg match against Inter Milan on Sept. 19. Rapid's Hanappi Stadium is undergoing major renovations and may not be ready in time.

Track meeting

LINZ, Austria, July 18, (UPI): Three years ago when the first Linzer "Gugl" international track and field meeting was proposed, organisers were the object of mirth. Critics roared laughing last year when the meeting attracted not only top international athletes, but also 13,000 spectators. With secure sponsors and the backing of the city fathers, out to make the meeting a high point of Linz' 500th birthday, organisers have a budget of 4 million Austrian schilling (\$350,000), which will be largely used to attract top athletes to the Aug. 22 event.

Soviet wins Tour stage LeMond steals the show



Komishev raises his arms in victory (Reuter wirephoto)

PAU, France, July 18, (Reuter): Dimitri Komishev today became the first Soviet rider to win a stage in the Tour de France, but American Greg LeMond still stole the show.

On a day which saw no changes among the race leaders, Komishev sprinted to victory to win the 150-km 17th stage from Lourdes in four hours eight minutes 25 seconds.

He and John Bruyneel of Belgium had pulled away from a breakaway group not long before the approach to Pau as the race moved out of the Pyrenees.

Komishev, second to LeMond in last year's world professional road race, held off the challenge from the Belgian. Steve Bauer of Canada was third, some 11 seconds behind.

All the race leaders finished in the main peloton five minutes 31 seconds further behind, although not before a scare involving LeMond.

He suffered a puncture on the last climb of the Tour, the Col de Marie-Blanche, just after 1988 Tour winner Pedro Delgado of Spain launched an attack.

LeMond lost two minutes on the hunch, which included race leader Claudio Chiappucci of Italy, while he waited for a wheel change.

But his "Z" team stayed behind to help and worked hard to get him back among the main group again.

LeMond, who is expected to win his third Tour de France title when the race finishes in Paris on Sunday, remains just five seconds behind Chiappucci in the overall standings.

Apart from punctures, his main problem seems to be saddle-soreness. He confessed before the stage that he was suffering from a 7.5-cm-long raw wound.

But he said it would not stop him finishing the Tour and there has been no sign that it is handicapping him unduly.

He is not the only member of the walking wounded brigade in the race. There were rumours before the stage that Delgado, third overall, would not start because of intestinal problems.

The Spaniard, who had been surprisingly lacking in aggression in the mountain stages, said yesterday he had been suffering for several days.

But he put that all aside in his impressive break on the last climb, even if he finally drew no profit from it.

The race goes into two flat stages, starting with tomorrow's 18th stage of 202 kms.



Milla (right) in action during the World Cup

Milla likely to play in L.A. next season

BRUSSELS, July 18, (UPI): Veteran Cameroonian striker Roger Milla, one of the outstanding performers at the 1990 World Soccer Cup finals in Italy, is to play in Los Angeles next season, he said yesterday.

He confirmed that in spite of interest from Molenbeek of Belgium and Italian and Spanish clubs, Los Angeles has come closest at striking a deal with the Cameroonian lion.

"My contract will be announced soon," the 38-year-old forward said.

Cameroon became the first African team to make the World Cup quarterfinals, but Milla brushed aside ideas that no other African team could do better.

"Nigeria is absolute tops," he said, "while Egypt bowed out in Italy this year with no losses. Africa has splendid teams and I applaud Fifa president Joa Havelange's idea of entering three African teams in the next World Cup."

Milla was in semi-retirement at Saint Pierre on the French island of Reunion before he was catapulted centre stage with his four-goal performance at the World Cup.

He arrived in Brussels to record a single called "Un enfant, c'est la vie" (A child, that is life — to be released in September) and looked visibly overwhelmed by the official welcome at the ACP house, the European headquarters of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific nations.

Cup balloon report denied

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, July 18, (Reuter): A Honduran newspaper which reported yesterday that a balloon launched in Italy at the opening ceremony of the World Cup had floated to Honduras said later in the day the report was false.

Under Spanish soccer rules a club can field only three foreigners and Real now have Hagl, Spasic, Ruggeri and Mexican marksman Hugo Sanchez on their books.

Real have already acquired Romania's World Cup midfielder Gheorge Hagi and the team's latest acquisition from Partizan Belgrade puts the future of their Argentine defender Oscar Ruggeri in doubt.

Under Spanish soccer rules a club can field only three foreigners and Real now have Hagl, Spasic, Ruggeri and Mexican marksman Hugo Sanchez on their books.

Filipinos take on KSSC

A TEAM composed of the best available Filipino basketball players in Kuwait takes on a Kuwaiti team at the Kiteen Gym tomorrow.

The Filipino selection, playing under the name of Durran I Int'l RP Team, will find the Kuwaiti, Kuwait Sea Sport Club, (KSSC) difficult to beat when both the sides clash in an exhibition game tomorrow at 12.30 pm.

The schedule of all of tomorrow's matches is as follows:

8.00 am Pizza Italia vs Kalexco

9.30 am Kellogg vs Kirby

11.00 am Kuwait International Hotel vs Nissan Al Bahia

12.30 pm Durran Int'l vs Kuwait Sea Sport Club

2.00 pm Overland vs NIC

3.00 pm Kuwait Regency Palace vs Hasawi Eagles

5.00 pm Al Wayle vs Trend Wave

The Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League Secretariat yesterday confirmed that visiting Philippine Senator Mamintab Abdal Jabbah Tamano, Congressman Allawadi Bandon and the Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait would witness tomorrow's proceedings.

The dignitaries are also expected to kick off a KPL/Filipino fundraising campaign in the aftermath of the worst ever earthquake to hit the Philippines.

One of the officials of the KPL Secretariat said that the organisation was calling on all its members to support tomorrow's proceedings to support the campaign.

Austrian team

VIENNA, July 18, (UPI): Austria's technical ski team only just avoided making a fruitless trip to Mount Hutt, New Zealand, for the ill-scheduled opening races of the 1990-91 World Alpine Cup season. The two slalom and two giant slalom races scheduled to start July 30, were called off Monday because of lack of snow.

Confident Faldo hopes to draw strength from British Open memories



Past winners pose for photographers. Left to right (Back row): Tom Walskopf, Severiano Ballesteros, Greg Norman, Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo, Tony Jacklin, Bob Charles and Sandy Lyle. Front row: Lee Trevino, Tom Watson, Arnold Palmer, Michael Attleborough (captain of Royal and Ancient), Fred Daly, Peter Thompson and Gary Player. (Reuter wirephoto)

frightened of it.

"I went to Troon with my dad and we watched Tom Weiskopf practise in his street shoes.

"He was swinging the club so well I said: 'He'll win Dad.' It turned out to be a pretty good guess for a first time."

Nowadays he can afford the best hotels and his dress sense is a touch more sophisticated. But Faldo believes his youthful memories could help him to win his second Open title in four years over the Old Course this week.

The Briton revealed yesterday that his first visit to a wet and windy Troon in 1973, at the age of 16, had taught him how to spot an Open champion.

"I went to Troon with my dad and we watched Tom Weiskopf practise in his street shoes.

"He was swinging the club so well I said: 'He'll win Dad.' It turned out to be a pretty good guess for a first time."

Faldo has developed into the most consistent player in world golf over the past three years and is cautiously optimistic that there are signs of a champion in his own swing at present.

"I can't wait to get started," he said. "The course is in great shape and there's a great atmosphere."

"I just want to play well enough to be in with a chance on Sunday afternoon."

Faldo came within a fraction of joining the playoff for the US Open at Medinah in June when his perfectly-struck putt lipped the 72nd hole but he does not believe the painful episode will cloud his chances this time.

"I thrive on the pressure. There's no point being scared or

frightened of it.

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"I thrive on the pressure. There's no point being scared or

Ancient to win it again," he joked.

Calcavecchia came almost from nowhere last year, catching Australians Greg Norman and Wayne Grady by birdying the 18th hole twice, once to reach the playoff and then to win.

He has won just one major, the 1986 British Open at Turnberry, and there is no shortage of detractors who say it is time he lifted another.

"I think they're right. Of course I'd like to do it again," the big Australian said after a tune-up round for this year's British Open.

"I appreciated the history more last year during the Dunhill because it was my first time here."

He said. "Now I think more about the golf course."

■ Greg Norman, top of the world golf rankings for most of the past five years, has been consistent under-achiever in grand slam events.

He has won just one major, the 1986 British Open at Turnberry, and there is no shortage of detractors who say it is time he lifted another.

■ Mark Calcavecchia cashed in heavily after winning the British Open tournament last year but he did not reach the 18th hole twice, once to reach the playoff and then to win.

■ Wayne Grady cashed in heavily after winning the British Open tournament last year but he did not reach the 18th hole twice, once to reach the playoff and then to win.



West Germany's Bernard Langer during last practice today for the British Open. (Reuter wirephoto)

starting tomorrow.

"Hopefully this will be the week for me. But even if it's not, I've got another 10 years of golf, maybe more, so I have at least another 40 majors to play in."

■ An era will end at St Andrews this week when Arnold Palmer brings down the curtain on 30 years of British Open participation.

Palmer, approaching his 61st birthday, confirmed yesterday that this was to be his final Open, appropriately at the same venue where he played his first in 1960.

In all, Palmer has played 21

Opens, winning in 1961 and 1962.

But the major championships

he led early in the final round of the US Open. But he blew his chance, hitting a triple bogey and a double bogey to card 78 in the final round.

Kite said later it was the biggest disappointment of his life. Then he went on to win the US Tour money-winning title for the second time with record earnings for the year of nearly \$1.4 million.